The Woman's Municipal League Bulletin

Vol. II.

1903—1904

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....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. AUGUST, 1903 No. 1

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, August 6th, at 4.30 p.m., at the house of Mrs. L. W. How, South Chestnut Drive, Bronxwood Park, Williamsbridge, New York City.

MISS CHANLER

will speak on "Summer Work."

MRS. WILL CARLETON,
Secretary

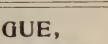
EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE CITY CLUB JULY 2, 1903

Commissioner Willcox gave an informal talk on parks and playgrounds, the substance of which is as follows:

One of the most pronounced needs of New York is a greater abundance of accessible breathing places and pleasure grounds for the people. It seems incredible that until fifty years ago nothing was done by the city toward the acquisition of a park. At that time territory was acquired for a large park, and even then it was several years before Central Park was really laid out. Indeed, until twelve years ago there was so little understanding in regard to the value and efficacy of parks in the city, that the Mayor recommended the sale of those grounds now recognized as Riverside and Bronx Parks. Public appreciation of the usefulness of small parks has been of a very slow growth. Under Mayor Strong the small parks system was established by the passage of the Small Parks Bill through the Legislature; and perhaps due to the earnest efforts of Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Riis, the taxpaying public were made not only to understand the necessity of these breathing places, but even educated up to paying for their maintenance. During this administration the Hamilton Fish, Corlears Hook and Mulberry Bend Parks were acquired by the city for the places where they were so sorely needed, and later were made beautiful as well as useful. Washington, Union and Madison Squares were all originally potter's fields before they were "turned into resting places for the living." Tompkins Square had been an old parade ground. At the present time Manhattan has fifty parks, squares and triangles.

The Outdoor Recreation League was the forerunner of the summer playgrounds project, but now it has become a part of the municipal system, and the Park Department means to make one feature of this administration the construction of the first playground in the city upon a sanitary basis, with every detail furnished to provide for the needs and pleasures of the people who will patronize it.

The plot of ground of about two and a half acres, bounded by Hester, Essex, East



Broadway and Suffolk Streets, and known as the William H. Seward Park, is the place selected to be first fitted up with all the essential elements of an ideal park. The site, with the condemnation of the mass of miserable tenements by which it was occupied, cost something like two millions. Although acquired by the city in 1897, until last year it was allowed to remain "unimproved," when the workmen cleaned away the refuse, encircled the ground with a good iron fence and a good sidewalk. The land was put in good condition, thoroughly drained, and given a light gravel top soil, so that children may play there directly after a rain. Around the exterior the department is trying the educational effect of grass and flowers. One hundred trees (white pine at Miss Chanler's suggestion) have been set out. To preserve the shrubbery it became necessary to encase the fence in a fine wire netting. General Greene has been petitioned for more police in order to find out if it is possible to save shrubbery and keep the grass green, if at all. Half the space is given to playgrounds, one of which contains a running track, with nine laps to a mile, in front of which is an out-of-door gymnasium with the usual paraphernalia, parallel bars, traveling rings, etc.; the other is well supplied with sand piles, swings, and so on down through the whole category of things that go to make up the happiness of little children. An instructor with attendants will be provided by the Park Department, that the play of the children may be properly directed. The Pavilion, with the completion of which the strike has interfered, contains toilet rooms, shower baths of the most approved type; and there is an open space on top built with special reference to overworked, tired mothers and their babies. In winter the upper part of the building will be enclosed so that the classes in gymnasium work and games may continue the whole year round. Ample heating arrangements will be provided for making the place as comfortable and attractive in winter as in summer. In cold weather the playgrounds can be flooded for skating.

The *John Jay Park,* 74th Street and East River, *Thomas Jefferson Park,* 111th Street and Harlem River, and the *DeWitt Clinton Park*, 52d Street and North River, are to be built on the same sanitary plan, except more of it. It is hoped to have seven playgrounds in the public parks before the summer is over. It is impossible to place enough seats in the parks to accommodate the people on crowded days, but during the two years the seating capacity of the parks shall have been increased fifty per cent.

Thirty thousand dollars will be expended this summer in enlarging comfort stations and putting them in absolute sanitary condition.

Another sanitary work of great importance undertaken by the Department is the cleaning of the lakes in Central Park, which has never before been thoroughly done, and when completed, the waters will be untainted and the lakes freed from lurking places for mosquitoes. The present administration has been appalled to discover that the sewage of parks empty into the lakes used by the public for boating. No other explanation is needed of a complaint that persons driving in the park have contracted malaria.

Summer Activities

Meetings: Under the auspices of the Woman's Municipal League meetings are being held at different missions and settlements to interest women in the benefits resulting to them from the present administration.

Three well attended, enthusiastic meetings have already been held: On July 10 at St. George's Memorial House, addressed by Mrs. William S. Carter; on July 17, at the Union Settlement Assembly Hall, where Dr. Jane E. Robbins was the speaker, and on the 23d of July, Mrs. M. D. Fisk, of Colorado, spoke at the Parish House of the Church of the Ascension.

The speakers brought home to the individual the discomforts resulting from an ignorant administration of our city departments, so many of which affect our homes. They left the impression in the minds of their hearers that the responsibility of these vital things rested with the city officials,—in a reform administration, conscientious; when Tammany is in power,—dangerous.

Early Closing Movement in Harlem: The initial step toward the advancement of the early closing movement in Harlem for the present season was the call for a mass meeting on July 2. Although the first mass meeting held in the interest of this question, it was by no means the first effort to secure the desired result.

A year ago Dr. Anne Langworthy-Waite directed the attention of the people to the fact that almost every important department store in the Bronx habitually kept open store until midnight on Saturday,—a Saturday half-holiday was wholly unknown. Although the movement was started by Mr. M. J. Bloomer of the Harlem Local and Life, the burden was generously shared by Dr. Waite, who with a coterie of strenuous workers, made a house to house canvass of the proprietors of the shops and their principal patrons, which resulted in the consent of many of the most important stores to close at ten o'clock Saturday evenings.

Forced last season to be content with this compromise, but now looking for a greater betterment of the situation, Mr. Bloomer, appreciative of the tactics displayed by those who aided the movement a year ago, has turned the whole matter over to the Woman's Municipal League, and Dr. Waite as Chairman of the Committee is continuing the work.

To further this end was the mass meeting called and addressed by such people as Mrs. Florence Kelley, of the Consumers' League; Miss McElroy, Secretary of the Harlem Young Women's Christian Association; Assemblyman Louis Abrams, of the Thirty-first Assembly District, and Hon. Harvey T. Andrews, the former Assemblyman, who introduced and had passed so many bills benefiting employees and employers.

In a brief resumé of the work accomplished last fall, Dr. Waite stated that many merchants had expressed a willingness to close early were it possible to keep their trade by reason of the closing of all stores. Shops on Third Avenue contended that they could not afford to close early, as Richard Webber's big Harlem Packing House kept open late and attracted shoppers. In presenting the matter to Mr. Webber, she was surprised to find him sufficiently in favor of the movement to agree to change his seven o'clock closing hour to six, beginning Monday evening, July 13. Letters in sympathy with the project were received from Dr. Lederle, Albert E. Davis, President North Side Board of Trade, the pastors of the Baptist and Methodist Churches of Harlem, and Mr. William Wright, a large shoe dealer of the district, who thought merchants would find it to their advantage to make some concerted movement.

Dr. Waite made an earnest appeal to customers to make their early shopping hours a strong factor in bringing about hours of rest for employees.

At the close of the meeting resolutions were passed in which citizens present promised not to shop after 9 p. m. on Saturdays. Resolutions were also adopted urging merchants to close their stores at noon on Saturdays during July and August.

In accordance with his promise, Mr. Webber has closed his establishment at 6 p. m., beginning July 13, thus releasing 181 employees an hour earlier than heretofore.

On July 14, a meeting was called at the house of Mrs. M. J. Bloomer and on the 22d of July still another was held at the residence of Mrs. Charles F. Maclean, Fifth Avenue and 130th Street, and indications point to the people of Harlem being forced to go elsewhere to shop after 6 p. m.

Janitors' Association Meeting: On Thursday evening, July 2, was held at the Educational Alliance Building on East Broadway one of the most interesting and significant meetings of the year. It was the occasion of the giving of prizes to the janitors who had entered into the competition arranged under the offer of a public spirited citizen. At a meeting of the East Side Janitors' Association an offer of $100 in prizes was made for a contest in cleanliness and in keeping the tenements in their charge in the best general condition.

Sixty janitors (men and women) entered into the contest, which continued over a period of six weeks. One person was engaged to examine all the tenements, and in addition a volunteer visitor was assigned to each house. Three visits were made to each house and its condition reported on blanks prepared for the purpose, the points considered being

condition of halls, walls, windows, cellars, basement, roofs, tanks, closets, etc. Six persons were selected as judges,—three representatives of the Janitors' Association, Mr. Blaumberg, President of the East Side Civic Club, Judge Kremer, and Miss American, Chairman of the Tenement Committee of the Woman's Municipal League. The $100 was divided into one $20 prize, three of $10, ten of $5, and in addition there were six medals, and a certificate was given to seven in addition, as well as to each person receiving a prize or medal.

Among those receiving the first four prizes the entire record was *very good;* the first prize was awarded to a man whose house had forty-four families; two second prizes went to women. The recipient of the first prize immediately donated it to the "Sick Fund" of the Janitors' Association, a noble and generous act, the finer for its spontaneity. No prize or medal was awarded to any one whose record showed that cellar, basement, or closets were kept in poor condition. Altogether it was a most interesting experience. During the evening addresses were made by Commissioner de Forest, Mr. James B. Reynolds, Judge Kremer, Dr. Blaustein, Superintendent of the Alliance, and the prizes were awarded by Miss American, who took occasion to speak of the projected plan of the Woman's Municipal League for a Training Class for Janitors. The plan of the Training Class is outlined and is only awaiting some generous donor with insight who will give $1,000 that the work may be started. It is hoped to elevate and dignify the position of janitor commensurate with its responsibility, and to give instruction in sanitation, tenement laws, health, the meaning of cleanliness, light and air, first aid to the injured, etc. The plan has been submitted to various experts on tenements and has their unqualified approval. There are now in New York three Janitors' Associations who are ready to take instruction, beside other groups; and no civic work will go deeper to the root of some of our civic evils than this work, if started. Curiously enough, little attention has been paid to the janitors as a whole by anyone. They are looked down upon by many; they are underpaid, or not paid at all. Let us hope the League may be the pioneer to begin changing these conditions for the better.

Childrens' School Farm: The Children's School Farm under the supervision of Mrs. Henry Parsons in DeWitt Clinton Park has just passed its first birthday, but appears to have attained several years' growth in this time. It has more than doubled its size. The garden, which now accommodates 300 children, has been moved back some distance from the river in order to make room for two large tents, one of which affords a grateful retreat for the mothers and infants of the neighborhood, who hitherto have found the curbing their only refuge from the stifling tenements; the other is given over to children too small for rake and hoe, but big enough for mud pies manufactured from the great sand pile brought by the contractors for their use. Another tent, demolished by the wind, has been replaced by a wooden shed, providing a resting place in inclement weather.

Just at the edge of the farm is an object lesson in Municipal Art in the form of a shack, which has already seen service as an engineer's house in the William H. Seward Park. A coat of green paint, a little white trimming and the addition of a miniature piazza, and it is transformed into a model of what a country home may be. Above the wire netting at the base of the front porch is an ingenious device of string cobwebs and iron hoops (extracted from a rubbish heap by one of the Street Cleaning Leagues) which serves as a trellis for clambering vines. Within the cottage is a training class for lilliputian janitors with all the conveniences for keeping the house in sanitary condition. The little farmers lay out the paths with true scientific precision, care for the flowers and anxiously watch the growth of the vegetables

The Departments of Parks, Health, Water Supply and Electricity, Docks and Ferries, Street Cleaning and Police are co-operating in various ways.

It has been necessary to add to the force of trained educators, who are doing fine work. One capable volunteer is also doing good service, and there is a cry for more.

This enterprise is badly in need of assistance. Mr. E. Everett Macy has promised to give $1 for every $2 subscribed up to $1,000, and has advanced the first $500. Checks should be made payable to Algernon S. Frissell, President Fifth Avenue Bank.

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. SEPTEMBER, 1903 No. 2

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League for September will be omitted, The next meeting will be held the first Thursday of October.

MRS. WILL CARLETON,
Secretary

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE CITY CLUB AUGUST 6, 1903

Alderman John H. Behrman, of the 44th Aldermanic district, and cognizant of its condition set forth its needs and asked for the co-operation of the Chester Local Improvement District Branch of the Woman's Municipal League in securing certain desirable ends to be gained in the Bronx. These improvements Mr. Behrman classified thus:

First—Educational facilities. Without good educational advantages, he said, we can not have good citizens. Our school accommodations in this district are too inadequate to supply the demand of at least 216 children under ten years of age, who apply for entrance. The stirring women of Williamsbridge can do much toward securing additional school accommodations.

Second—Development of the sewer system throughout the district. After annexation in 1895 the city cut off any possibility of renewing a sewer system. For sixteen or eighteen months the matter rested, then an amount of unexpended money of the Williamsbridge village was utilized to complete certain parts. But we need a complete sewer system through the three main streets clear to the Sound.

Third—The streets already supplied with sewers are in the condition of the proverbial torn-up streets,—never in as good condition as before being disturbed. We need to have these streets given certainly a top dressing of macadam, and with the assessment made, not upon the property owners, but upon the people at large.

Fourth—We need the extension of the water main system throughout the territory. Proper sanitary conditions cannot be otherwise maintained. Only a few years ago we were completely at the mercy of the New York and Westchester Water Company. We are now released from this bondage as the city has purchased the plant thereby reducing our rates exactly one-half.

Fifth—Extension of gas mains, and the issuance of a legal franchise to enable people to obtain a good supply of standard gas from a responsible company. The question of gas is a very serious one in Chester, and our cry for the extension of gas mains has so far resulted in the removal of eleven gasoline and the substitution of thirty gas lamps in Bronxwood Park.

Sixth—One of the most important needs of the district is a double trolley line on the White Plains street railway.

Seventh—Putting the electric wires underground. Nearly a year ago the matter was referred to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and the Chief Engineer reported that the wires ought to be taken down. The property owners and residents sent a petition with over a thousand signatures to the Legislature. A bill was drafted to compel the removal of all overhead wires, but was never reported.

Important Date for the Children of New York

Laws enacted at the last session of Legislature for the betterment of conditions relating to children, and which take effect September 1st:

Senator *Agnew's Bill*, prohibiting a child from working as a newsboy, bootblack or peddler under the age of ten years, and, between the ages of ten and fourteen, prohibits his working later than ten o'clock at night.

Assemblyman *Dowling's Bill*, protesting against the detention of children under sixteen years in station houses and places of detention over night and sometimes longer to the prejudice of their health and morals; and providing that whenever a child under sixteen in any city of the first class, is arrested for violation of an ordinance or other minor offense, the police captain or sergeant before whom he is brought, may accept in lieu of bail, the personal recognizance in writing, without security, of a parent, guardian or lawful custodian of such child, to produce the child before the proper magistrate at the time required. The parent or other person giving such recognizance may be punished for criminal contempt of court for willful failure to produce the child as agreed.

Assemblyman *Hammond's Bill*, for the establishment of children's courts, requiring all cases involving the commitment or trial of children under the age of sixteen years, shall be heard and determined apart from the trial of other criminal cases; a separate docket and record shall be kept, and so far as practicable a separate room used, to be known as the "Children's Court." Another provision is made for the "probation of such children under the charge of a competent probation officer, who shall, when practicable, be of the same religious faith as that of the parents of the child, and who may be either from one of the incorporated societies or any reputable citizen, male or female."

Assemblyman *Dwyer's Bill*, relating to the abandonment of children. The bill raises from six to fourteen years the age below which a parent or other person who, having the care or custody for nurture or education, deserts the child with intent to wholly abandon it, is guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment in a State Prison for not more that seven years.

Senator *Grady's Bill*, affecting the care of vagrant, disorderly, or ungovernable children. This bill amends the Penal Code so as to define as "disorderly," children actually or apparently under the age of sixteen years who desert their homes without good cause, or associate with dissolute, immoral or vicious persons; as " ungovernable," children under sixteen who are not susceptible of proper treatment or control by their parents, guardians, or lawful custodians, or who are habitually disobedient to their reasonable and lawful commands.

Senator *Elsberg's Bill*, making it a misdemeanor for any junk dealer to receive or purchase goods, chattels, ware or merchandise from any child under the age of sixteen years.

Primaries

To the Woman's Municipal League Bulletin:

In reply to your request for information concerning changes in the Primary law, I wish to point out an amendment, passed by the last Legislature, which works a most significant reform. As is well known, citizens register on the second and third Fridays and Saturdays before election, which come this year on October 9, 10, 16 and 17, and the election on November 3. At the same time they may sign an enrollment slip which

entitles them to take part in their party primary the following September. Their party preference is kept secret, however, by the Board of Elections until after the election in November. Heretofore voters, who neglected to enroll with their party when they registered in October, could enroll during the following May and June. More than that, a voter who moved into a new election district could get a transfer, from the Bureau of Elections, at any time up to thirty days before the primaries. This system of transfers was productive of great frauds, for in districts where there were sharp primary contests, as in the Ninth District last year, wholesale colonization took place. Men moved from other districts thirty days before the primary, just to vote at the primary election. Other men, good citizens, found that their names had been transferred without their knowledge or consent and that they were disfranchised in their own election district because somebody wanted to use their names in a primary fight elsewhere. The amendment of which I speak has rendered all this impossible by confining enrollment for the primaries to the four registration days in October and thereby cutting off the supplementary enrollments in May and June and all transfers. Of course, this disfranchises three classes of voters from participation in the primaries this fall: those who failed to enroll as a member of some party when they registered last October, those who have moved since the election, and the young men who will have come of age by election day. But the advantage is that perhaps 10,000 illegal votes at the primaries this fall have been suppressed and the extremely bad system of colonization for primaries has been stopped. At the present time only three-quarters of the registered voters are enrolled as belonging to some party, consequently the other quarter, or perhaps 170,000 voters, cannot take part in the primaries this fall. Their influence in the primary elections is, accordingly, lost for this year.

It is very fortunate that the Woman's Municipal League is to take an active part in encouraging registration, for there is a very large percentage of men who will not register and vote unless strongly urged. In 1900 over 640,000 voters registered for the Presidential election. The next year, in spite of the efforts of Tammany and of the Fusion forces, only 614,000 registered and of these 26,000 did not bother to vote after they had registered. Consequently, as compared with the registration in 1900, there were over 52,000 voters who took no part in the Mayoralty election in 1901. The great work for the Woman's Municipal League is to help in the task of persuading these 52,000 stay-at-home voters, together with the thousands of new voters who have been added to the population since 1900, to come out and *register* and *vote*. It is a shameful condition of public spirit when *one* man out of every *ten* in New York City fails to take part in the selection of the officers who are to govern this imperial city, which is the richest corporation in the United States, owning in its name, docks, bridges, school houses, parks, police and fire stations, etc., valued by the tax assessors at $800,000,000. If the Woman's Municipal League can persuade the men that it is a duty and a privilege to vote for officers of their corporation, they will indeed have performed a great work.

Very truly,

THOMAS A. FULTON, Secretary.

The Mayoralty Vote

In connection with the statement "Tammany can not be beaten twice in succession," we would like to call attention to the following facts:

In 1894, previous to consolidation, Mayor Strong was elected by a plurality of 46,087. In the next election, 1897, Mayor VanWyck was elected; but not by a plurality of votes cast, because there were four candidates. The votes cast for Mayor VanWyck in the five boroughs numbered 233,997, while those cast for Low, Tracy and George amounted to 275,464. This brings us to 1901, when Mayor Low's majority was 31,536. It must be seen that Tammany already has been beaten not twice but three times, as a majority of votes has been cast against Tammany candidates in the last three elections.

Public Comfort Stations

A list of proposed improvements to be undertaken this summer in public comfort stations has been received from the Park Department.

1. New comfort station to be placed near High Bridge.
2. Enlarging the men's comfort station on Madison Square.
3. Altering and renovating the men's comfort station in the basement of Union Square building.
4. Changing and installing new plumbing work, etc., in the men's comfort station located near the Dairy on the north side of the Transverse Road.
5. Completing the men's comfort station in the Ball house which is located near the 66th Street Transverse Road, and a new system of plumbing in the men's comfort station directly to the north of this building, in an annex.
6. A men's comfort station located near the West Drive and 65th Street Transverse Road, new plumbing, etc.
7. Placing a comfort station for men in the large room of the Swedish School-House.
8. Increasing the size of the women's comfort station in the Mount Morris Park.
9. New plumbing, painting, etc., in the men's comfort station at the Lake near the new boat house near the East Drive.
10. Repairs to men's comfort station located in the Ramble near 79th Street and the East Drive.
11. Repairs to men's comfort station located at the edge of the Lake near the Bowbridge.

In addition to the above a public comfort station is being erected in the North Meadow, Central Park, also stations for both sexes near the Arsenal building, Central Park and in Morningside Park.

Committee on Ice Water Fountains

During the summer fountains have been installed at Union Settlement, 235 East 104th Street, and at the Seamen's Mission, 341 West Street.

The letter given below voices the appreciation generally accorded to these fountains.

MRS. THOMAS M. DILLINGHAM, Chairman.

My dear Madam:

I have the honor to inform you that at a late meeting of the Board of Managers of the Protestant Episcopal Church Missionary Society for Seamen in the City and Port of New York, a resolution was passed extending their thanks and acknowledgments to the Woman's Municipal League of the City of New York for their generous services in the placing and maintaining of the ice water fountain in front of the reading room of such Society for Seamen at No. 341 West Street, in this city. I am,

Very respectfully yours,

GEORGE B. BONNEY, Corresponding Secretary.

HARRIET A. DILLINGHAM, Chairman.

Summer Meetings

Two more meetings to interest the people of the East Side in the reform administration have been added to those noted in the last Bulletin. On July 28, 150 persons responded to an invitation sent out from St. Mark's Parish House to listen to Mrs. Fisk, and on August 11 Mrs. H. S. Tonjes held the earnest attention of a goodly sized audience at the Madison Square Church House.

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. OCTOBER, 1903 No. 3

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, October 1st, at 2.15 p.m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

MR. JAMES B. REYNOLDS, Secretary to the Mayor

will speak on "The Issues of the Coming Campaign."

MRS. WILL CARLTON,
Secretary

A Letter from Mrs. Lowell

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN:

I congratulate you sincerely on your exposure of the fallacy that "Tammany cannot be beaten twice in succession." The statistics given by you in your September issue prove that New York has shown itself in the last three Mayoralty elections to be an "Anti-Tammany" city, and this fact should be repeated over and over again from now until November 3rd, in order that all the time-servers who desire above all things to be on the winning side may fully understand that in voting the Tammany ticket they are putting themselves on the side of a hopeless minority.

I congratulate the League also upon its intention to appeal to the indifferent to register, and above all, to *vote* after having registered. Such appeals will affect many.

Individual women, however, can do more by reminding the men with whom they have influence of the great issues at stake in the coming election, and begging them to do their duty as citizens of "no mean city." We have now, as Mr. Jerome has truly said, an administration of city affairs far better than any that New York has ever known, and (as he might have added with equal truth) far better than that of almost any other city in the country, and it behooves all good citizens to give the Mayor who has done us this great service, the opportunity to continue, to improve, and to perfect his work, which is but just begun.

For the sake especially of the hundreds of thousands of helpless people living in our crowded tenement districts, those who have votes should feel it a sacred duty to continue the present administration in power. To the well-to-do it is of little personal moment what sort of a city government we have. A man with money can make himself quite comfortable under any kind of administration, provided he has no care for the good name of his City, and no sympathy for his suffering fellow-citizens.

If the water supply gives out or becomes polluted, the well-to-do can buy plenty of pure water; if the streets they live on are filthy, they can hire men to clean them; a bad police force never troubles the rich; their food is not adulterated; they need no Health

Department to save them from disease; their houses are not invaded by prostitutes; they can get fresh air and sunlight without the help of the Tenement House Department; the Fire Department is not their only protection against being burned in their beds; their children are educated whatever may be the condition of the public schools; if a pestilence of typhus fever or cholera threatens the city, they can leave it with their families.

Far otherwise is it with the mass of tenement house dwellers. They are dependent for everything that makes life bearable, for everything that makes life possible, upon upright, intelligent and devoted city officials.

Let women realize this, and let them appeal to the voters to register and to vote for the sake of these helpless people who live so near to us, but yet whose lives are so cruelly different from ours.

JOSEPHINE SHAW LOWELL.

September 10, 1903.

Trained Nurses in the Public Schools

A very interesting experiment was made in connection with the medical school inspection last fall. A nurse was asked to take up a group of schools and see what could be done to prevent the children from being sent home for indefinite periods of time, with minor contagious diseases. It was shown during a month's trial that nearly nine hundred children received attention for various causes, the greater percentage of which might have been serious if not taken care of just at the right time. The experiment was made with a very limited supply of materials, and with no place to work in but corners of playgrounds. The test proved to be such a success that the Board of Health took it up and appointed a regular staff of nurses, the Department of Education co-operating by providing the surgical supplies and other requisites.

The arrangement generally carried out in the schools is systematic. The doctor makes a routine inspection of each child in the school once a week, examining the eyes, throat, and head. The children having sore eyes, ringworm, scabies, impetigo favus, and pediculosis were formerly excluded until cured, which meant whole terms and sometimes longer, while now they are all retained in school and looked after by the nurse each day. A case is cited of a child twelve years of age who had never been to school. He was taken time and again, but was not admitted on account of some slight infection on his finger. A nurse in the community took him in hand, and after a few days' careful cleansing and applying proper ointment, had the gratification of having him admitted to school for the first time in his life.

When the routine inspection is made by the doctor, such children as can be cared for by the nurse in school are sent at once to her, and she applies the treatment prescribed by the Department of Health. The children excluded for more serious ailments are visited by the nurse, and such advice or instruction as is necessary given to the mother. Many times children are taken to doctors or dispensaries by the nurse, when the mother finds it impossible to go with them. Various other diseases are found by the nurse when visiting the homes, and sometimes very unsanitary conditions are relieved by notifying the proper authorities.

At the beginning of the year the staff was increased to twenty-eight nurses, the number of schools visited daily being one hundred and six, with an attendance of over seventy-five thousand children. The nurses spend about one hour in each school; beginning at nine in the morning they can visit four or five schools each day, besides making the visits to the homes. Each nurse has a group of schools, which she attends regularly, as few transfers as possible being made.

The teachers have given every co-operation, and do not hesitate to say how much higher the standard of cleanliness is since the nurses became a part of the inspection. Special notice has been taken of the condition of the head, and advice given in the home as to the best means of eradicating pediculi. The clothing also presents a marked change

for the better, the children knowing that they will gain words of approval from the nurse if they come neat and clean. Hands and faces often get extra touches for the same reason, although the children in school, even in the crowded districts, present a very clean appearance.

The work is being carried out most successfully, and we hope in the near future to have the staff of nurses increased and more schools taken up.

(Miss) Lina L. Rogers,
Supervising School Nurse,
(New York and Brooklyn.)

The Juvenile City League

The Juvenile City League is an organization of boys' clubs started on the middle West Side to lead the boys into an attitude of citizenship toward their city and its government by getting them to perform such simple duties in accordance with the sanitary code and other laws as are natural and proper for them to observe. The League originated with Miss Catharine S. Leverich, Chairman of Committee on Streets of the Woman's Municipal League; she raised the money for the summer's experiment and the first activity of the League has been toward keeping the streets clean. Mrs. Henry Parsons urged Miss Leverich to have the work started on the middle West Side, where her own work centering in the Children's School Farm is located. This was distinctly advantageous, as Mrs. Parsons's unerring and intimate knowledge of the neighborhood has been very helpful to the workers in all that concerned the local conditions. Miss Leverich placed the work in charge of Mr. William Chauncey Langdon, Instructor of History at Pratt Institute, as Director, and he has had Mr. Ralph H. Ferris, of the Union Theological Seminary, and three others as assistants.

The two months' work has brought together about 1,300 boys into 42 clubs, extending from West Thirty-seventh to West Fifty-seventh Streets. Every club represents a separate block. The Department of Street Cleaning has placed on every block where the League organized a club one of their paper and fruit-skin cans for the use of the boys, thus encouraging them in their civic interest and facilitating their efforts to keep their street clean. In this the boys have accomplished a great deal, not only in picking up papers and rubbish in the street, but in refraining from throwing things into the street and using their influence with their companions. They have also reported to the League office dead cats and dogs in their streets and thus expedited their removal. They have helped to disseminate the notices and regulations of the Department.

A series of cards has been published for the members on such subjects as "Keep Your Street Clean," "Take Care of Your Garbage," "Have Gentlemanly Manners," "Put Only Ashes in the Ash-Can." These cards give a few specific directions with clear reasons therefor, and a paragraph of appropriate information, all as simply expressed as possible. There was also a card on Col. Waring.

Through the kindness of Commissioner Woodbury, of the Department of Street Cleaning, and Commissioner Hynes, of the Department of Corrections, there has been a series of excursions from the foot of East Twenty-sixth Street to Riker's Island to see the fillings where the Street Cleaning Department is making real estate from the ashes and rubbish of the city. Through the kindness of Dr. Lederle, of the Health Department, there has also been a series of excursions around the City by boat from West Fiftieth Street to Hell Gate and back to East Sixtieth Street, giving the boys a good idea of the City and of the many City Institutions of the Health, Charities and Correction Departments in the East River. The Director has received from the Commissioners of the various City Departments, on the mere statement of his purpose, the utmost encouragement and assistance; he is indebted to them for much more opportunity to study their work than he has thus far at all been able to use.

The headquarters of the League has been in a little store, formerly used as a laundry, at 555 West Fifty-third Street. The Hartley House on West Forty-sixth Street also very kindly placed a room at the League's disposal as a centre for clubs farther south. At these places another feature was introduced into the work, a "circulating library" of sporting

goods, chiefly bats, balls, mitts, masks and boxing gloves. Although the supply was small and altogether inadequate for the opportunity, this feature was valuable in itself and successful. An effort was made to make the headquarters so far as possible without interfering with the general work of the League, a club room for the boys in Fifty-third and adjacent streets. This proved attractive and did much good, giving the boys a respectable gathering place and the unforced companionship of a man interested in them. The boys largely took care of the room and themselves made a book-case and a ping-pong table for it. On the walls hung the flags presented to the League by Mrs. Edward Leverich—an American and a City flag (three feet by five), which with a bust of Washington on the book-case, did much to decorate the room and to stamp a high ideal on the work.

In pursuing the purpose of the League by these means and others the Director and his assistants have felt that there was in the nature of the situation a demand for bringing the boys of New York City into line to co-operate, to the extent of their ability and in their proper sphere, with the City Departments. They have tried to work out such a scheme of civic work as might prove adaptable to the local conditions of any neighborhood and might ultimately be spread over the whole City through all five Boroughs.

District Work

The erection of a drinking fountain by the Tremont Branch of the Woman's Municipal League is a feature of the year's work which deserves special mention. During the spring of 1902 the attention of this district was called to the urgent need of such accommodations in the Borough of the Bronx, and investigation proved that there was not a single fountain between Harlem River and Williamsbridge. A committee was therefore appointed, Mrs. Horace H. Tinker, Chairman, and active work began at once. Local interest was quickly aroused. Mrs. Israel C. Jones, of Tremont, offered the use of her home for a "Silver Offering Tea," which was such a pronounced financial success that the fountain committee took steps toward the immediate securing of a site. The corner of Tremont and Third Avenues was selected, but when a permit was applied for Park Commissioner Eustis advised the committee that the city had already appropriated a small sum toward the erection of a drinking fountain on that particular spot. The Commissioner then volunteered to himself contribute the remainder of the amount necessary to install a fountain there, without drawing at all on the funds of the Woman's Municipal League. Mr. Eustis also wished his contribution to be considered as a direct result of the Committee's efforts, and the completed fountain to stand as a monument to their earnestness and enthusiasm.

Encouraged by the cordial co-operation shown in their desire to make their section of the city a more habitable place, the committee worked hard to swell the funds in hand. The proceeds of a concert in February completed the required sum. The Tremont Branch selected the junction of the three great thoroughfares, Webster, Burnside and Tremont Avenues, where hundreds of adults and children pass daily to Echo Park and the large public school one block away, as the best site for a fountain which should be wholly the result of their own efforts.

Not only was permission to place the fountain granted by the Park Commissioners, but it was accompanied by many offers of assistance. Through all the detail work of buying and erecting the fountain the public interest in their undertaking was manifest. Plumbers, street excavators, masons, all begged to be allowed to contribute their services toward what they felt would prove a perpetual blessing to themselves and their little ones.

An impressive dedicatory service was held on April 30, 1903, when the park and the avenues about the speaker's stand were filled with friends and well-wishers. One of the band leaders, Mr. Hagan, offered the services of himself and his associates, contributing much to the enjoyment of the occasion. After a prayer by the Rev. Father Thomas F. Gregg, of St. Augustine's Church, Morrisania, Mrs. Tinker made the address of welcome. Mrs. Gardiner F. Underhill, Chairman of the Tremont Branch, formally presented the fountain to Commissioner Eustis as the representative of the city, and Mr. Salzmann, of Salzmann & Freitag, who donated all the plumbing work, turned on the water, the earnest of a stream that has since refreshed thousands of men and animals. Among the speakers of the day were the President of the Borough, the local Aldermen, the President of the Tax-Payers' Alliance and the President of the Woman's Municipal League.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. NOVEMBER, 1903 No. 4

The Annual Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, November 5th, at 2.15 p.m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

KATHERINE T. RHODES,
Assistant Secretary

Financial Appeal

Mrs. Charles Russell Lowell, Treasurer of Campaign Committee, Room 1509, 31 Union Square West.

The women were one of the active factors in securing the election of the present administration when they contributed to the fund which made possible the printing and distributing of the pamphlet "To Fathers and Mothers," which Mr. R. Fulton Cutting said was one of the strongest individual factors in the success of the Reform Movement.

In the *great crisis* upon us the Woman's Municipal League asks your *help* to secure the *re-election* of the *present administration* which has done away with the frightful "Cadet System," has stamped out contagious diseases, protected the tenement population and lowered the death rate.

Not only has it made the streets morally cleaner and cleared the city of the "Red Light" scandals, but it has pursued the *fight against vice* in its more insidious form. It has investigated as never before the intelligence offices of the city which are licensed and which send girls into our homes.

It has found that the majority tend to make an immoral life attractive to girls as being easier than service. They send into homes girls whom they know to be morally unfit; bring respectable girls who desire situations into contact with the disreputable, and send the innocent and ignorant to places which they know are likely to corrupt them for life.

Criminal convictions have already been obtained in two cases and legal evidence has been secured against twenty other offices which proved ready and willing to supply women for immoral purposes. The men have been sent up, their licenses revoked, and two other licenses revoked.

If we help to keep the present administration in office the other sixteen can and will be convicted, and thus *not only innocent girls* but our own homes be safeguarded.

Only if we *keep out Tammany* and *keep in Mayor Low* can we hope that vice will be conquered, womanhood protected.

Two years is too short a time to complete any work. Victory now means more for safeguarding our homes and for the moral and physical welfare of the city than ever before.

The Citizens' Union considers the Woman's Municipal League of the greatest importance in the present campaign.

We wish to be as effective as two years ago by constant presentation of the moral issues of the campaign through meetings, the press, literature and on sign and bill boards to offset the tireless activity of Tammany.

For this we need *money*.

Will you help us? The responsibility for the result rests with you.

To the Editor of the Woman's Municipal League Bulletin:

Last week a young girl came into the office of the Woman's Municipal League and asked to see one of the ladies there alone. She had evidently been pretty once, but now, in her shabby-gay clothes, she had lost most of her beauty with her youth and her health. She had come to beg the Woman's Municipal League to reprint the pamphlet entitled "Facts for Fathers and Mothers." She was told that it was not regarded as wise to reprint this pamphlet. She then told her story.

She had dearly loved the man she married, but a few days after the wedding he had placed her in a disorderly house. She was kept there five months and she was never allowed to go out. Once she got where she could call a policeman, but he passed along without paying any attention to her. Finally, she grew so ill that they let her go. Her health shattered, she had tried to earn money but had failed everywhere except on the street. "I have come," she said, "to save other girls. If Tammany gets back there will be a lot more of us out there." She was asked if she would not give her name so that the officers of the Woman's Municipal League might try to help her. "I have no name, and you'll never see me again. There's nothing you can do for me," she said, and with that she left. To-night she is out on the street.

It may or may not be wise to reprint the pamphlet, "Facts for Fathers and Mothers," but must we not face the question of whether we, by our indifference, are not risking the return of this awful collusion between the police and vice? One can help by giving his time and strength, or by sending money to R. Fulton Cutting, the Citizens' Union, 18 East Sixteenth Street. Will not the man or woman who reads this letter follow this poor woman's lead and help to "save the other girls"?

JOSEPHINE SHAW LOWELL.

New York, October 17, 1903.

Lest We Forget

Seward Park was formally opened on Saturday, October 17, 1903. It is one of six parks and seven playgrounds opened under the present administration, against one park only under Tammany. Seward Park was begun in 1897 under Mayor Strong. For four years it was surrounded by a high board fence. In 1902 the fence came down, and a year later the children were let in. Seward Park is the first park in New York City where a considerable share of the entire area is devoted to playgrounds. **Parks.**

The attention of Mr. George B. McClellan has been called to the false statement into which he was misled by his Tammany managers, that 87,000 children were this year being denied the privilege of an elementary education. It has been demonstrated to Mr. McClellan that not one child over the age of six who has applied for admission in the public schools has been turned away. He has not yet retracted his statement, however. **Schools.**

It is true that some 89,000 children in the lowest grades are in part time classes. From 1898 to 1901 inclusive there never was a September when the school returns indicated that every child who applied was given a seat, even for half a day. In one year and a half, under Mayor Low, the sum of $14,900,000 was appropriated for new schools. Compare this with the $8,904,242 appropriated in four years under Tammany, and calculate the number of children who might be out of school to-day if the Fusion ticket had been defeated in 1901.

Under Tammany the medical inspection of schools was a farce. The only children examined at all were those who were isolated by the teacher under suspicion of being afflicted with contagious diseases. To-day every child in the public schools of New York City is examined once a week. The record of the Board of Health shows that more children were examined in a single week in 1902 than during the entire year of 1901. In 1902, for the first time in the history of the department, the medical inspectors included in their duties the inspection of diseases of the eye. The result has been the exclusion of thousands of cases of trachoma, a highly contagious disease, the natural end of which is blindness. All cases of trachoma may be treated free of cost by the Health Department.

During a single month in 1903 something like 18,000 school children were cared for by the trained nurses introduced into the schools under the present administration. Children are treated daily for minor ailments, and all those who are too ill to attend school are treated in their homes by the nurses.

An example of neighborhoods cleaned and purged of vice since 1901 is to be seen in Chrystie Street, in the block bounded by Delancey and Broome. Several of the most notorious dives and houses of prostitution in the city were formerly located in that block. One of them, No. 127, was known as one of the principal strongholds of the unspeakable "cadet" system. To-day it is a station of the Charity Organization Society. Within the past few weeks many of the former inhabitants of the neighborhood have been seen in Chrystie Street, looking for renting property. These individuals are betting on the election. Shall they win or lose? **Red Light District.**

Milk. No one cause is more prolific of infant mortality than impure and adulterated milk. In 1902 the first systematic inspection of the city's milk supply was instituted. An indication of what the state of affairs had been is given in the records of the chemical laboratory of the Department of Health. Out of 3,970 samples of milk examined 2,095 were found to be adulterated. Most of the offenders were East Side Dealers. In a single day, September 22, thirty of these men were fined in the Court of Special Sessions. The total amount of the fines imposed was over $1,000. The beneficial results of the Department's crusade became apparent almost from the start. The milk supply of the city has shown a remarkable improvement, and this fact contributes in no small measure to the constantly decreasing death rate on the East Side.

Streets. The torn up condition of the streets, on account of the building of the subway, has been annoying enough, and many people have complained bitterly of it. When Dr. Lederle took office the excavations had a number of broken sewers discharging their contents into the open cuts; there were practically no sanitary accommodations for the workmen; rubbish was constantly being thrown into the excavations by people living along the line, and was left to lie in the pools of rainwater which were everywhere allowed to collect and stagnate. Let the people of New York imagine what the condition of public health would be to-day if these abuses had not been promptly remedied by the Board of Health, in co-operation with the new Street Cleaning Department and the reorganized police force.

Lastly—lest we forget—let us consider this simple and undisputed statement of truth by District-Attorney Jerome: "No man can put his finger on a private fortune made under this administration."

A mass meeting at Carnegie Hall will be held by the Woman's Municipal League on Tuesday, October 27th, at 8 P. M. The speakers will be Jacob Riis, R. Fulton Cutting, William Travers Jerome, Cyrus Sulzberger, Frederic Hinrichs, and Mrs. Frederick Nathan from the Woman's Municipal League.

Workers are urgently needed to assist in the work of the League. We need every member. Will YOU not help? Please report at the office at any time.

Citizens' Union Poster—Designed by Mr. C. R. Lamb

Woman's Municipal League

31 UNION SQUARE

The Campaign Committee of the Woman's Municipal League: . . . . . .

Miss Chanler, *Chairman*
Mrs. Charles Russell Lowell, *Treasurer*
Mrs. Paul Revere Reynolds, *Secretary*
Miss American
Mrs. L. W. Betts
Mrs. C. C. Burlingham
Mrs. Edward Curtis
Miss K. S. Day
Miss Helen de Peyster
Mrs. Camden C. Dike
Miss Grace H. Dodge
Mrs. J. T. Dougine
Miss Margaret D. Dreier
Mrs. Wm. M. Jackson
Miss C. S. Leverich
Mrs. Frederick W. Longfellow
Mrs. Frederick Nathan
Mrs. Henry Fairfield Osborn
Mrs. Charles H. Parkhurst
Mrs. Herbert Parsons
Miss A. J. Purrington
Mrs. Charles Riker
Mrs. Wm. H. Schieffelin
Mrs. Jos. A. Scrymser
Mrs. M. K. Simkhovitch
Mrs. Thomas R. Slicer
Mrs. George Alexander Strong
Mrs. J. N. P. Stokes
Mrs. Henry Villard
Mrs. Bessie Van Vorst
Miss L. D. Wald

The Woman's Municipal League Campaign Bulletin

NOVEMBER, 1903

On June 4, 1903, the League had definitely declared for the Citizens' Union ticket. Mr. Robert Fulton Cutting addressed the public meeting and work preparatory to the campaign was commenced and continued throughout the summer.

During previous campaigns no work was commenced before the ticket was announced.

The Campaign Committee of League met for the first time October 1st and subsequently each Wednesday before the election and the Thursday following. Mrs. Paul Revere Reynolds, having volunteered to give her services during the entire month of October, began to work in the office on October 2d.

The first undertaking was to accede to a request of the Citizens' Union, that the League pay $1,000 towards the printing of campaign posters designed by Mr. C. R. Lamb, and to the distribution of same. One hundred thousand were printed and distributed. Various methods for this distribution were tried, viz., men paid to do this work during the day, also lads, connected with a boys' club, which latter means proved effective. The members of the League gave personally posters to those who would sign cards issued by the Citizens' Union to this effect: "Will you help in the re-election of Mayor Low by placing in the windows of your house or office posters such as the bearer of this card will give you?" This method proved very successful. The willingness of householders to stand for good government by placing posters in the windows of their private houses was a most encouraging testimony to the growth of public spirit.

Especially good work was done with the posters in the Riverside District. One woman distributed ninety and another woman sixty. A member who lived in the Sherman Square Hotel found ten other women willing to put up the posters in their windows, but the management objected, and they were taken down. One woman who agreed to go to her tradesmen sent the following report:

Her butcher, a very intelligent and well educated German, wanted the posters so much that he was prepared to send for them. They were put in his shop for one day; the second day he had to take them down because of the objections on the part of other customers; but he eagerly explained that they were up in the windows of his flat.

The newspaper dealer replied that he had not had time to read the papers; that when he had he would make up his mind and send around to either the Citizens'

Union or the local Democratic headquarters for a poster, according to the way he decided.

The baker asked that he and each of his employees (all of whom were going to vote for Low) might be given posters to take home. He could not put them up in his windows because of the objections of customers.

Her husband's tailor, a dreamy little Russian Jew, put the poster in his window, and when it was suggested that some of his customers might object, he said, looking at Mr. Lamb's yellow lady, "No one can object to a thing so beautiful; I shall tell my Republican customers the truth—that it is there for the 'CAUSE,' and my Tammany customers that it is there because it is beautiful."

It is interesting to remember that in Hebrew districts the posters were often refused on the ground that the woman's figure must have a Christian religious significance.

The Campaign Committee soon felt that the work must be divided into that which should emanate from the central office and that which should be developed in as many district headquarters as possible. Two years ago so few volunteers responded to Mrs. Lowell's appeal for workers that her enormous work was accomplished in one room in Thirty-fourth Street. But the seed then sown among thirty workers bore fruit sevenfold, as the following reports prove.

The first campaign headquarters of the Woman's Municipal League was opened on October 9th and preparations made for a noon meeting on October 12th. This meeting was the commencement of a series which continued until October 31st, and was conducted by the Citizens' Union, but under the auspices of the Woman's Municipal League. On October 16th afternoon meetings, in addition to those held at noon, were inaugurated, and also continued until the close on October 31st.

Each morning was devoted to folding literature, which was given out throughout the day. This was done by volunteers, members, or women sufficiently interested to offer their services during the campaign. Buttons were also distributed and were provided by the Citizens' Union until October 23d, when the Woman's Municipal League was obliged to order, at its own expense, ten thousand buttons, some of which were sent to the branch headquarters in Bleecker Street, Avenue C, and 66th Street and Broadway. Thousands of posters were given out, and the headquarters were open from 9 o'clock until 5:30 and 6 every day except Sundays, with at least two persons constantly in attendance. The noon meetings increased in size until the end, and the afternoon talks began to prove of interest, particularly to women.

ISABELLE E. RUTTY,
Chairman.

The Bleecker Street Branch headquarters of the Woman's Municipal League we consider a decided success. If Mr. Low had been re-elected our hearts would be much lighter, but there is a small crumb of comfort in having won our local fight, Mayor Low, Mr. Finch for Assemblyman, and General D. E. Sickles all securing majorities. Would that all Assembly Districts could tell the same tale.

With the assistance of Mr. Hand, Chairman of the District Citizens' Union headquarters, I secured a large corner store (formerly a tea store), on Bleecker and Barrow Streets, and after the whitewashing, scrubbing, cleaning, and fumigating had been carried on vigorously (for in this region things are not kept over clean), we moved in October 23d and kept the place open until after election day.

Ladies helped in seeing people throughout the day and in giving out literature, and every evening we had a meeting at 8 o'clock, with six or seven good speakers, some provided from the Citizens' Union headquarters, some from the local Union, and some through personal request. Music and fireworks or Bengal light helped to attract the crowd which, when in the room, numbered 100 at least, and which behaved well, seeming interested and loath to go at 10 o'clock. Indeed, one evening it was kept up until 12 o'clock by a particularly energetic chairman.

There were occasional bursts of enthusiasm on the wrong side, for the district is quite a strong Tammany one under Barney Martin's rule, but that only gave a bit of local color, interesting, and a suggestion of possible improvement in view after hearing our good speakers. They were a critical audience, appreciating a good speech as much as any one, and I had to be careful to make good programs for the evenings.

General Sickles made his first campaign speech here, and was met with much enthusiasm.

Mr. Finch, who is extremely popular always in this district, created a furore when he appeared. General Stewart Woodford, Mr. David Willard, Dr. Geiss of Columbia, Mr. John Martin, Mr. W. Franklin Brush, Mr. Joseph Choate, Jr., Mr. Walter Fairchild, and many others made excellent speeches.

Saturday there were some Italian speakers to interest the Italian voter. Prof. Speranza, of Columbia, presided, and Mr. Fraucolini, a distinguished banker among the Italians of New York, made an address, among others.

A women's meeting was tried one afternoon, but the women here are too hard worked to get time to go to meetings, unless their interest has been previously aroused by more personal work and acquaintance among them by the ladies, for which there was not sufficient time.

The day after election I had on my own account an afternoon party for about twenty boys, as I wanted to keep in touch with some of the children of the quarter. We had a nice time playing games with them and seeing them devour with much gusto cakes and candies.

I cannot sufficiently thank Mrs. Simkhovitch of Greenwich House for all her invaluable help and suggestions, and also wish to include the Citizens' Union headquarters and the Fifth Assembly headquarters for their help in every way, and the different ladies who interested themselves in the work.

I believed in district work before, but now, from experience, would urge it upon the League's attention as strongly as possible for our work for the coming two years.

We must know and get in touch with the people themselves if we are to convert them to our way of thinking and voting.

KATHERINE S. DAY,
Chairman.

The Woman's Municipal League campaign headquarters were opened at 72 Avenue C on Saturday, October 24th, and remained open from 8 A. M. to 10 P. M. daily until Monday, November 2d, in charge of Dr. Jane Berry and Mrs. Wendell.

A woman was employed to be present from the opening to the closing, to distribute campaign literature. She spoke Yiddish, German, Hungarian, and Slav.

Meetings were held every evening with addresses in English, German, and Yiddish, the average attendance being seventy-five. There was always an attentive

audience, and thanks are due to Mr. Hube, of the Citizens' Union, and members of the Federal Club of the District, who gave generously of their time and efforts in securing speakers and conducting the evening meetings. Also to Mr. Ernest Lederle, who gave an interesting stereopticon lecture, which was well attended and much appreciated. Miss Chanler and Miss dePeyster also addressed evening meetings.

The headquarters were decorated with the Citizens' Union posters and pictures of the candidates. The Citizens' Union and the Order of the Acorns sent us liberal supplies of campaign literature, buttons, and posters, for which there was a constant demand.

SELINE S. RIKER,
FRANCES E. C. WENDELL, *Chairman.*

The Riverside Branch held three meetings in October, at which $226 were subscribed, $54 of which was donated to the Citizens' Union for electioneering carts, $50 for expenses in holding mid-day meetings at the rooms of the Citizens' Union headquarters at Sixty-fifth Street and Broadway, $164.84 to the headquarters of the Woman's Municipal League on Union Square to be turned in by them to the Citizens' Union.

It being suggested that meetings similar to those held on Union Square be held in the Riverside district, Mr. Cutting was asked his opinion, and thought it a good plan and gave it his cordial endorsement; and as the headquarters on Sixty-fifth Street and Broadway was not used in the day time it was offered to the Riverside Branch free of expense and the Citizens' Union also provided the speakers. The meetings were addressed by the Rev. Mr. Barton, Rev. Dr. Paddock, Dr. Geiss of Columbia Medical School, and Mr. Bayard Cutting, and were extremely interesting. Mrs. Hardon was appointed to take charge, and with an active corps of younger women did good service. A number of ladies volunteered for clerical work, and three thousand postals were addressed and sent out.

We feel that the Women's Municipal League is yet in its infancy and far from being discouraged, the determination of us all must be to realize its splendid possibilities and have a branch in every district in the city.

AUGUSTA L. CURTIS,
Chairman.

The Riverside Branch of the League had the benefit of Mrs. Frederic Nathan's experience and support. Eleven hundred and fifty postal cards were sent out by her, and the placing of many posters was due to her influence.

Upon visiting City Island, in the Second Division of the Annexed District, which contains a voting population of over 500, it was found that a Citizens' Union headquarters had been opened. Through Mr. Samuel Miller, who was in charge, the names of all voters in the district were obtained, and the Woman's Municipal League's "Appeal to Voters" and other literature was mailed to each voter, also literature and posters were left on two milk routes. Posters were generously distributed along the main street and several hundred leaflets from the Citizens' Union were left at the headquarters for distribution.

SELINE S. RIKER,
FRANCES E. C. WENDELL,
Chairman.

The Brooklyn Barnard Club offered the Campaign Committee of the Heights Branch of the Woman's Municipal League, headquarters at 132 Remsen Street. The offer was accepted. About fifty women filled that committee, the work being started by securing from the Citizens' Union a list or lists of names of voters, who had not registered the first two days of registration. Making those lists, finding addresses, and sending under cover and stamped to each man, telling where he was to register, the street and number; sending out an appeal to women for money to meet the campaign expenses, also having an appeal put in form in five papers, printing an appeal to voters in English, German, Swedish, and Italian, having them distributed personally; the printing of a thousand tigers, and the sending out of all kinds of literature, books, etc. Money raised, $1,140.43 from the appeal to women.

This report would have been more interesting if success had followed work. But, as *Brooklyn Life* says on its editorial page: "Undismayed by the failure of its campaign work to bring about the desired result in the way of retaining the present administration in power, the Heights Branch of the Woman's Municipal League is shouldering its self-imposed duties with greater courage and conviction than ever, and not only this, but it is planning to have its work extended through the borough, instead of being confined to the Heights as heretofore.

JEANNIE B. DIKE,
Chairman

Mrs. Strong was appointed Chairman of Committee on Meetings on October 7th. Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Nathan, Mrs. Trautman, and Miss American served upon it. The first work undertaken was an appeal, asking the Christian and Hebrew clergy of the city to urge upon the men of their congregations the duty of registering.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

> Reverend Sir: In the interest of good citizenship, will you on Sunday kindly remind the men of your congregation of the duty of registering on Friday and Saturday of next week.

In addition to assisting the districts, five meetings were organized by this committee and nine excursions, by which 500 citizens inspected the magnificent work accomplished by Mr. Low.

A mass meeting was held at Carnegie Hall on Tuesday, October 27th. Decorations of the hall were done by the Publication Committee of the Citizens' Union, and by Mrs. Charles Lamb.

Miss Chanler presided and eloquent addresses were made, setting forth in startling contrast the administration of the city under Tammany and Reform, by Mrs. Frederick Nathan, Mr. R. Fulton Cutting, Judge William Travers Jerome, Mr. Cyrus Sulzburger, Mr. Jacob Riis, and Mr. Ralph Trautman.

At the end of the meeting a letter was read from the Chairman of Committee on Watchers for the Citizens' Union, which was an appeal for watchers on election day.

A meeting in the interest of law and order was held at the West Side Lyceum by Miss Leverich, in which about 800 boys were asked not to build bonfires on election night.

The total number of meetings held under the auspices of the League was fifty-five.

The registration having been appallingly light during the first two of the four registration days, the work for the next week was concentrated upon an effort to increase the registration, which was very successful. Ever since August an attempt had been made to secure correct lists of the residences of men entitled to vote. No such lists exist. Miss Day was appointed Chairman of Registering Committee, and makes the following report:

In looking at the question of registration at the request of our President, I was much surprised to find that no lists existed of the male inhabitants of New York of eligible voting age, and as an experiment I had the Trow Directory Company make a list of four election districts in the Fifth Assembly District, which cost $30. With sixty Assembly Districts and an average of twenty election districts, this method would be too costly, coming to about $9,000. Four thousand circulars were ordered for three election districts. Then it seemed a pity to drop the work there. Eight thousand post cards were used, they and the circulars left over from the district work being addressed from the "Club Lists of New York." The cost was:

Post cards	$80
Printing	10
Circulars, printing and envelopes	28
Stamps	80
	$198

It is impossible to know what fruit the work bore, but in the Fifth Assembly District they tell me the registration was very good.

The report that 60,000 registered voters failed to vote seems to indicate a need to follow up the voter from the cradle to the grave, so to speak.

KATHERINE S. DAY,
Chairman.

The following are three samples of the printed matter used to promote registration:

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

REGISTRATION DAYS.

1903

Friday, October 9

Saturday, October 10

Friday, October 16

Saturday, October 17

Non-voting Classes in the State of New York

CRIMINALS, INSANE, INDIANS AND MINORS

AND ALL WHO FAIL TO REGISTER

CALL TO REGISTER.

A census shows that fifty-two thousand (52,000) residents of the City of New York neglect their privilege and duty of voting.

Club lists and registration lists compared show that in some clubs made up exclusively of university graduates one-half the members never vote. Shall an important duty be neglected through forgetfulness or indifference?

The issues in this campaign are such that the women of our city cannot ignore them. A moment's reflection will show that men have gone to war to fight for things less important. Attention is therefore called to the vital points at issue, viz.:

Honesty vs. Dishonesty.

Decency vs. Indecency.

Woman's Honor vs. Her Dishonor.

The City's Honor vs. Its Dishonor.

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESULT RESTS WITH YOU.
The LAST days of REGISTRATION are

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE
WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE,
31 Union Square, New York City.

In 1901, 30,000 men registered who did not vote; it therefore seemed important that an appeal should be sent to the men who registered, the one which follows was decided upon. After consultation with the Citizens' Union and Republican District leaders, it was determined that an immense area should be covered. Mrs. Reynolds organized the committee of 65 volunteers, aided by paid workers from the Woman's Exchange, Trow's Directory and several church societies. One hundred and forty thousand notices were sent, and if this arduous piece of work had been less thorough we should not have felt that the League had done all in its power to get out this vote.

REGISTRATION.

1st day	2d day	3d day	4th day
169,961	138,610	183,333	135,903
Total 308,571		Total 319,236	

Total registration 1903—627,807.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

IN 1901, 30,000 MEN REGISTERED WHO DID NOT VOTE.

The question to be decided on November 3d is a momentous one The simple issue is decency against pollution; honesty against "graft"; purity in the home against contamination of the home—especially of the poor man.

As women we have done all that we can. The result lies with you. We appeal to your honor as men to represent us, who cannot speak for ourselves, in this Campaign, which so vitally concerns the home.

The large registration seems to assure a victory for honest government if its friends will but cast their ballots for it, and we beg you most earnestly to permit no engagement and allow no plans to interfere with your going to the polls on Election Day. All we have to fear is that the men who can make victory certain for this honest administration may not cast their ballots on November 3d.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

BROOKLYN, N. Y., November 4, 1903.

The Publication Committee begs to submit a report for the campaign of 1903. The members of the Committee were Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Paul Revere Reynolds, Miss American, Mrs. of the *New York Evening Post*, and Miss Dreier. The work accomplished was as follows:

The Committee prepared a letter endorsing Mr. Low's administration. This letter was signed by thirty prominent women in New York, and was published October 16th and 17th in the *Sun,* the *Tribune,* the *Times,* the *Herald,* the *World,* the *Staatszeitung,* the *Evening Post,* the *Evening Sun,* the *Mail and Express* and the *Evening Staatszeitung.* It also appeared in the *Brooklyn Eagle* signed by the officers of the Heights Branch.

At the request of the Committee editorials were inserted in many of the leading newspapers during the month of campaign until the evening of the election.

At the request of Mrs. Frederick Nathan a letter was framed asking the prominent physicians of New York to endorse the work of Commissioner Lederle of the Health Department. This letter was signed by thirty-six of the most eminent physicians in New York and published in seven or eight newspapers November 2d.

HEALTH BOARD UNDER FUSION.

Tribute From Eminent Physicians to Its Good Work in Last Two Years.

This testimonial to the good work done by the Health Department under the Fusion administration was received yesterday:

New York, October 31.

To the Editor of the Sun—*Sir:* In view of the fact that we, as physicians, can judge better than the public the great service rendered to the city by Dr. Ernst J. Lederle, Commissioner of the Department of Health, and his advisory board, we deem it only just and right to express our great appreciation of the work accomplished by them in the past two years, and to offer our public acknowledgment.

Robert Abbe, M.D.
M. Allen Starr, M.D.
L. D. Bulkley, M.D.
N. M. Shaffer, M.D.
W. T. Bull, M.D.
A. H. Smith, D.D.
D. B. Delavan, M.D.
T. A. Emmet, M.D.
Alfred Meyer, M. D.
F. S. Dennis, M.D.
A. McCosh, M.D.
W. R. Pryor, M.D.
C. K. Briddon, M.D.
R. G. Freeman, M.D.
R. F. Weir, M.D.
S. Alexander, M.D.
A. B. Ball, M.D.
J. H. Huddleston, M.D.
A. Caille, M.D.
A. G. Gerster, M.D.
J. Collins, M.D.
F. Markoe, M.D.
W. G. Thompson, M. D.
C. McBurney, M.D.
C. L. Dana, M.D.
W. C. Philips, M.D.
D. B. St. J. Roosa, M.D.
G. L. Peabody, M.D.
H. Knapp, M.D.
G. E. Brewer, M.D.
F. W. Street, M.D.
Emil Gruening, M.D.
W. K. Draper, M.D.
W. Travis Gibbs, M.D.
Carl Beck, M.D.
Francis Delafield, M.D.

The Committee also had charge with the Finance Committee on writing the

financial appeal. It also undertook the publication of the campaign bulletin, and framed a letter sent out to 163,000 men who had registered asking them to vote.

With the co-operation of Mr. Rosenfeld 15,000 circulars were printed contradicting Tammany's claims that the taxes had been raised.

A record of the work is on file for future reference.

Respectfully submitted,
MARGARET D. DREIER,
Chairman.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Room 1509, 31 Union Square West.

Two years ago Tammany was defeated at the polls. The police revelations, including as they did the terrible conditions of the East Side with its red light scandals, aroused in the community an anger and an indignation which swept the Reform Administration into power. The moral issue was recognized and it was met squarely. That was two years ago.

Mayor Low and his fellow-workers have given us a clean government. They know that their task has but begun. We must prove our willingness to continue the fight to help them to complete the task. In place of promises we have facts. They ask the voters to read the record of their work in deeds, not words.

The story looks so simple that we are in danger of overlooking its greatness. No political argument could be as inspiring as these simple statements: Crowded tenements morally and physically safeguarded; contagious diseases restricted; consumption stayed; trained nurses in our Public Schools; 5,000 lives saved annually by improved sanitary conditions; 48,000 school sittings provided in one year as against 18,000 in a year under Tammany; eight playgrounds furnished to the children; clean streets.

If there are any citizens to whom these facts represent but a pleasing difference, and possibly make the city but a pleasanter place to live in, or if they represent abstract questions of civic ethics; we ask these men and women to remember that in thousands of homes these facts touch the daily life of our friends and neighbors, and are fraught with meanings that concern the chastity and honesty of their sons and daughters.

Another campaign has begun; again we are face to face with the same foe. Tammany Hall has not changed; it is as hideous to-day as it was yesterday. With its return the terrible conditions of the East Side with its red light scandals again confront us. This is an indisputable fact. We know our enemy, but we also know our leaders. This is an opportunity for every man to be counted in among the thousands who fight for the right. The battle is a great one. Who is there among us who dares shirk the responsibility?

The office work began each day with a type-written statement given to the press, including what was prepared by the Publication Committee and progress of the various headquarters' meetings held, etc., and comments upon the campaign.

In addition to the English-speaking papers, the League was quoted daily in the following journals: *Austro-Hungarian Gazette, Slovak-Amerike, Kuryer Noworjorski*

(Polish), *Tygodnik Noworjorski, Bollettino Della Sera* (Italian), *New York Listy* (Bohemian), and the *Nordstjernan* (Swedish).

The October issue of the Bulletin was a campaign number and may be referred to for Mrs. Lowell's campaign letter, quoted by Mr. Low at mass meetings.

The following insertions are a few of the interesting letters, etc., placed at the disposal of the Publication Committee, also notices printed by them, beginning with a letter from Bishop Potter received by one of the members of the League:

A LETTER FROM BISHOP POTTER.

"Unless intelligent voters register we cannot hope for anything but corruption in the administration of our municipal affairs. For the failure to register by people who know what corruption has cost the weak and defenseless among us leaves municipal government in the hands of rounders and grafters. And so I will gladly urge upon others the duty of registering."

Mark Twain wrote the following campaign letter to the Woman's Municipal League:

"I should think that any humane and honest person would rather be convicted of one robbery and one murder than become a cold and deliberate confederate in wholesale robbery and wholesale murder by voting a Tammany ticket.

"Certainly if anything is proven, up to the hilt, Tammany's financial history and health statistics of 1901 prove that Tammany's especial and remorseless trade is wholesale pillage and wholesale destruction of health and life."

DEPARTMENT OF STREET CLEANING.

JOHN MCGAW WOODBURY,
Commissioner.

NEW YORK, October 26, 1903.

MY DEAR MISS CHANLER:

In reply to your telephonic inquiry, regarding the naturalization papers of the men belonging to this department, I would say that the inquiry was conducted by the United States Secret Service Bureau and with the authority of General Burnett, the United States District-Attorney. A Mr. Peake, acting as his agent, examined the men belonging to the department and their papers. The office of this Mr. Peake is at the Secret Service Bureau in the United States Post Office here in town. The Department of Street Cleaning or its Commissioner has in no way been interested in this inquiry or the examination of the papers of the men formed as competent to this Department by the Civil Service Commission.

Yours very sincerely,
JOHN McG. WOODBURY.

MISS CHANLER,
31 Union Square, New York.

A very respectable woman who lives in an East Side tenement complained to a member of the Executive Committee some two years ago of the condition of the tenement in which she and her family lived. Her children, she said, she was obliged to keep in her rooms the larger part of the time as she did not like to have

them even go up and down the stairs of the house because of the character of the women living in the house. She made complaint to the Police Department and received the following day a dispossess warrant. She is now living in the same street but not in the same house and her children are able to go through the house and to play in the street without seeing sights unfit for them to see.

AN APPEAL.

The Woman's Municipal League appeals to the intelligent women of New York for their co-operation in the present struggle for a morally and physically clean city. It asks their sympathy, their money and their serious thought as to what it involves in this issue.

It asks that those women whose lives are protected and shielded in every way try to help those poor women and girls who have to fight at fearful odds to protect themselves.

It asks that those women who have little children who have long summers in the country, think of and try to help those to whom the parks and playgrounds are the oases in their lives. It asks that every woman for the sake of honesty, charity, health and decency, see as far as she can, that the men associated in and about her home not only vote, but that they realize the awful responsibility of that vote.

All women are asked to come to the rooms of the League, either at 33 Union Square West, or at 1965 Broadway, near 65th Street, and help with the work, or send money. Every dollar counts.

Checks should be sent to

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.
Room 1509, 31 Union Square West.

PUBLICATION.

VOTE FOR LOW.

THAT MEANS

More Parks.
More Play Grounds for Children.
Clean Streets.
More Public Baths.
Vice and Crime Kept Out of the Home.
Better Tenements.
Purer Milk.
Lower Death Rate.
Seat for Every Child in School—All Day.
Honest Police.

The labors of the Publication Committee must have been much greater if the Citizens' Union had not been so admirably prepared for the campaign with pamphlets, leaflets and cards, thousands of which were placed at our disposal, and copies of which can be furnished on application.

So much has been said about the vilification indulged in during this campaign that it seems important to record the serious character of this literature which is the history of the present administration.

It will be remembered that in 1901 the Woman's Campaign Committee raised $20,000, which was given to the Citizens' Union to pay for the pamphlet "To Fathers

and Mothers." It was evident that the expenses this year would be even greater if the work kept pace with the demand. Mrs. Lowell kindly served as Treasurer, and the following appeal to all who contributed two years ago and to others to the number of 3.000 appeals, independent of those circulated in Brooklyn. The addressing of 2,000 was done by the Misses dePeyster.

The money contributed paid for the various campaign headquarters, the printing and posting of appeals and what was put at the disposal of the Citizens' Union. Below is a copy of the appeal sent out:

FINANCIAL APPEAL.

Mrs. Charles Russell Lowell, Treasurer of Campaign Committee, Room 1509, 31 *Union Square West.*

The women were one of the active factors in securing the election of the present administration when they contributed to the fund which made possible the printing and distributing of the pamphlet "To Fathers and Mothers," which Mr. R. Fulton Cutting said was one of the strongest individual factors in the success of the Reform Movement.

In the *great crisis* upon us the Woman's Municipal League asks your *help* to secure the *re-election* of the *present administration* which has done away with the frightful "Cadet System," has stamped out contagious diseases, protected the tenement population and lowered the death rate.

Not only has it made the streets morally cleaner and cleared the city of the "Red Light" scandals, but it has pursued the *fight against vice* in its more insidious form. It has investigated as never before the intelligence offices of the city which are licensed and which send girls into our homes.

It has found that the majority tend to make an immoral life attractive to girls as being easier than service. They send into homes girls whom they know to be morally unfit; bring respectable girls who desire situations into contact with the disreputable, and send the innocent and ignorant to places which they know are likely to corrupt them for life.

Criminal convictions have already been obtained in two cases and legal evidence has been secured against twenty other offices which proved ready and willing to supply women for immoral purposes. The men have been sent up, their licenses revoked, and two other licenses revoked.

If we help to keep the present administration in office the other sixteen can and will be convicted, and thus *not only innocent girls* but our own homes be safeguarded.

Only if we *keep out Tammany* and *keep in Mayor Low* can we hope that vice will be conquered, womanhood protected.

Two years is too short a time to complete any work. Victory now means more for safeguarding our homes and for the moral and physical welfare of the city than ever before.

The Citizens' Union considers the Woman's Municipal League of the greatest importance in the present campaign.

We wish to be as effective as two years ago by constant presentation of the moral issues of the campaign through meetings, the press, literature and on sign and bill boards to offset the tireless activity of Tammany.

For this we need *money*.

Will you help us? The responsibility for the result rests with you.

M. L. CHANLER,
E. C. PARSONS,
JOSEPHINE S. LOWELL.

Last week a young girl came into the office of the Woman's Municipal League and asked to see one of the ladies there alone. She had evidently been pretty once, but now, in her shabby-gay clothes, she had lost most of her beauty with her youth and her health. She had come to beg the Woman's Municipal League to reprint the pamphlet entitled "Facts for Fathers and Mothers." She was told that it was not regarded as wise to reprint this pamphlet. She then told her story.

She had dearly loved the man she married, but a few days after the wedding he had placed her in a disorderly house. She was kept there five months and she was never allowed to go out. Once she got where she could call a policeman, but he passed along without paying any attention to her. Finally, she grew so ill that they let her go. Her health shattered, she had tried to earn money but had failed everywhere except on the street. "I have come," she said, "to save other girls. If Tammany gets back there will be a lot more of us out there." She was asked if she would not give her name so that the officers of the Woman's Municipal League might try to help her. "I have no name, and you'll never see me again. There's nothing you can do for me," she said, and with that she left. To-night she is out on the street.

It may or may not be wise to reprint the pamphlet, "Facts for Fathers and Mothers," but must we not face the question of whether we, by our indifference, are not risking the return of this awful collusion between the police and vice? One can help by giving his time and strength, or by sending money to R. Fulton Cutting, the Citizens' Union, 18 East Sixteenth Street. Will not the man or woman who reads this letter follow this poor woman's lead and help to "save the other girls"?

JOSEPHINE SHAW LOWELL.

NEW YORK, October 17, 1903.

MRS. C. R. LOWELL, *Treasurer*, in account with Campaign Committee, Woman's Municipal League.

RECEIPTS
October and November, 1903

Through Miss Chanler	$1,750.00
" Mrs. W. H. Schieffelin	1,445.00
" Mrs. C. R. Lowell	1,886.20
Direct to Treasurer	990.00
From Office Woman's Municipal League	5,624.34
	$11,695.54

EXPENSES
With 55 Vouchers

To paid, Stephen H. Tyng, Jr. & Co.	$ 625.00
" " R. Lenz	483.32
" " A. R. Reynolds	621.29
" " Miss Rhodes	950.00
" " Winthrop Press	602.00
" " Miscellaneous (see Vouchers)	968.83
" " Treasurer Citizens' Union	7,345.0
" " Mr. Cutting for Citizens' Union	100 00
" " Stamps	.10
	$11,695.54

MRS. C. R. LOWELL,
Treasurer

E. & O. E.

SPECIAL EXPENSES

Miss Alexander. Expenses for Carnegie Hall Meeting (Receipts were handed to Mrs. Lowell.)	$ 462.00
Expenses of Union Square Headquarters	49.25
Postage for Miss de Peyster	32.00
Postage for Miss Chanler	17.00
Extra Campaign Bulletins	200.00

Throughout the campaign the co-operation of the Citizens' Union was to be depended upon whether we asked for advice or assistance.

To the speakers who made the success of our meetings our thanks are especially due, as they are to Mr. Cutting for permission to reprint the posters on the cover of this report.

The campaign work of the League ended Saturday night, October 30th, excepting in the District Headquarters, where instruction to foreign voters was given up to the last moment. On Election Day Miss Day, assisted by several ladies, wound up her labors by accompanying carts, distributing coffee and sandwiches to the watchers. In other districts the watchers were welcome at private houses could they take the time to go to them. But the more arduous way of feeding them should certainly form a part of our substantial election work. The usefulness of the work so imperfectly described in this report was not only to re-elect Mr. Low and continue the benefit which New York has derived from a business administration of the city department, it is also to be found in the benefit every woman derives from becoming a practical factor in civic public spirit.

The 30 volunteers of 1901 are succeeded by the 250 of 1903. Let us not forget that there are 1,000,000 in New York, and that with the exception of the Woman's Republican Club we have failed to hear of any other woman's organization who takes an active part in campaign work.

ERRATA OF CAMPAIGN BULLETIN

The report of the Avenue C Campaign Headquarters should be signed by Mrs. Gordon Wendell, and the report of City Island by Mrs. C. T. Riker.

(OVER)

Last week a young girl came into the office of the Woman's Municipal League and asked to see one of the ladies there alone. She had evidently been pretty once, but now, in her shabby-gay clothes, she had lost most of her beauty with her youth and her health. She had come to beg the Woman's Municipal League to reprint the pamphlet entitled "Facts for Fathers and Mothers." She was told that it was not regarded as wise to reprint this pamphlet. She then told her story.

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JOSEPHINE SHAW LOWELL.

NEW YORK, October 17, 1903.

MRS. C. R. LOWELL, *Treasurer*, in account with Campaign Committee, Woman's Municipal League.

RECEIPTS

October and November, 1903

Through Miss Chanler	$1,750.00
" Mrs. W. H. Schieffelin	1,445.00
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MRS. C. R. LOWELL,
Treasurer

E. & O. E.

SPECIAL RECEIPTS

Carnegie Hall	$462.00	
From the Misses de Peyster	32.00	
" Miss Chanler	266.25	760.25

SPECIAL EXPENSES:

Expenses for Carnegie Hall Meeting. (Receipts in excess sent to Mrs. Lowell)	$462.00	
Expenses of Union Square Headquarters	49.25	
Postage for Miss de Peyster	32.00	
" " Miss Chanler	17.00	
Extra Campaign Bulletins	200.00	760.25

RECEIPTS

Amount raised in Brooklyn (see page 5)	$1,140.43
	$13,596.22

EXPENSES

Amount Expended in Brooklyn	$1,140.43
	$13,596.22

(Over)

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CITIZENS' UNION POSTERS—DESIGNED BY MR. C. R. LAMB

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. DECEMBER, 1903 No. 5

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, December 10th, at 11 a.m., at the City Club, 19 West 34th Street.

JAMES B. REYNOLDS, Secretary to the Mayor, and JOHN J. BEALIN, of the State Labor Bureau,

will speak on "Employment Bureaux."

MARY L. BUSH,
Secretary.

OFFICERS

President ..... Miss Chanler
Vice-President ..... Mrs. Herbert Parsons
Treasurer ..... Miss Grace H. Dodge
Secretary ..... Mrs. Wendell Bush

DIRECTORS

Miss American
Mrs. Charles Hilton Brown
Mrs. John K. Creevey
Miss Helen van C. dePeyster
Miss Margaret D. Dreier
Mrs. W. M. Jackson
Miss Catharine S. Leverich
Mrs. Charles T. Riker
Mrs. Thomas R. Slicer
Mrs. George Alexander Strong

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Edward Curtis
Miss Katharine S. Day
Mrs. Camden C. Dike
Mrs. J. T. Dougine
Mrs. William Herbert
Mrs. Frederick W. Longfellow
Mrs. Gordon Wendell

STANDING COMMITTEES

Affiliation, Miss Chanler
Children, Mrs. Charles T. Riker
Corrections, Mrs. W. M. Jackson
Employment Bureaux, Miss Grace H. Dodge
Finance, Miss Grace H. Dodge
Health, Mrs. George Alex. Strong
Immigration, Miss Helen van C. de Peyster
Legislation, Miss Margaret D. Dreier
Organization, Miss Chanler
Parks, Miss Lucretia Peters
Publication, Mrs. Wendell Bush
Streets, Miss Catharine S. Leverich
Tenements, Miss American

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Columbus Circle, Mrs. Edward Curtis
Early Closing of Stores, Dr. Anne Langworthy-Waite
Ice Water Fountains, Mrs. Thomas M. Dillingham
Summer Meetings, Miss J. C. Irwin-Martin

All Communications should be sent to **THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE,**
Room 1509, 31 Union Square, West

Extract from President's Annual Report

The President's report last year closed with an outline which indicated for the League an increase in membership, undertakings, organization, affiliation, expense and time given to the city. Taking these in order, our membership has grown two hundred and thirty-five. Four Local Improvement Districts—Murray Hill, Greenwich, Kip's Bay and Chester—have been organized and are represented on the Central Committee. We have printed in the Bulletin reports of work accomplished by other organizations, and have been associated with them in appealing to the Legislature and in conference.

Duplication of machinery almost always comes from either ignorance or prejudice—two faults of which we do not wish to be guilty. If we do not know what people are doing, or if we do not credit them as working for the good of their city, we hold aloof; whereas, the moment we become aware of what may be called mutual endeavor, some degree of affiliation, if it is only sympathy, ensues. Speaking for other bodies, holding public meetings at which speakers of prominence address us on matters of general interest and the Bulletin are the three avenues by which this great end may be reached. That is why the Public Education Association, the Consumers' League and the City History Club have all been asked to contribute their records during the last winter. We have co-operated with many societies on the Child Labor and Tenement questions.

Our budget has increased, exclusive of the last campaign, $400. The time given to the city on the part of the President is as follows: 165 hours on 102 days. Attended 49 meetings, 27 conferences.

Last April the office was removed from 21 Park Row to 31 Union Square, West. Office hours from 10 to 4 have been observed except upon legal holidays and during October, when it has been open from 8:30 to 6.

The monthly meetings have been continuously held at the City Club, with the exception of the one in August at Williamsbridge. The regular monthly meeting was omitted in September, and the meetings of the Central Committee in July and August. At the last Central Committee meeting it was decided we should hold our monthly meetings during the coming winter on the second Thursday of each month at 11 A.M., because it has been impossible to find an afternoon hour which was convenient to the majority.

Twelve Bulletins have been issued, two of them double numbers and the last four months enlarged one-third. These follow subscribers to France, Italy and the West Indies, and are sent by request to many parts of our own country.

Perhaps the most important work of all has been that of the Legislative Committee; because bills affecting several of the city departments for which we work have been taken up. Last year this committee did not exist. The work was done from the office as well as might be without it being any one's special business. Last winter brought us a great opportunity when the various Child Labor and Tenement House Bills were before the Legislature. We may look forward to similar opportunities, and none of our committees are better equipped for effective work than the Legislative.

There have been several ways of doing this work, and my hopes have been surpassed when I find that our support and opposition have been requested by Commissioners of city departments, many organizations, editors of the leading papers, the Brooklyn League,

clergymen and twelve Legislators. When we do not have to look for work, when we are turned to by these important channels, our position is indeed established.

I hope that our next undertaking will be to develop an equally strong Aldermanic Committee, so that we may familiarize ourselves with all important ordinances, and with the support or opposition which they receive at the hands of individual aldermen. This is not a work which any member who has already chosen to associate herself with a committee can possibly undertake. It needs a corps of workers all its own, and I especially commend it to your attention.

The work of the Campaign Committee will be fully treated in a separate report adjoined to this; but it seems wise to remind ourselves that while the ticket which that committee indorsed has been defeated, and while the successful candidates who begin to hold office on January first were nominated by an organization whose previous history the Woman's Municipal League has repeatedly condemned, the next two years must bring our various committees into perpetual contact with city officials because of the first and second articles of our Constitution.

Article I. The name of this Association shall be the Woman's Municipal League of the City of New York.

Article II. The purpose of the League is to promote among women an intelligent interest in municipal affairs and to aid in securing permanent good government for the City of New York without regard to party or sectional lines.

Our work is continuous no matter who may be in power.

The reports which follow mine speak for themselves both as to the character of the work and the amount of time spent upon it. Let me say in closing that as the work has increased, all of which is voluntary, the ease and pleasure of the officers with whom the responsibility rests have also increased month by month, and while there are many directions in which our organization is still a mere outline, the quality of the work is uniformly disinterested, and we may feel that the Woman's Municipal League has emerged from the experimental stage.

Committee on Legislation

The Legislative Committee of the Woman's Municipal League was first called into existence in January of the present year, with Miss Margaret Dreier, Chairman; Mrs. Mary H. Loines, Secretary, and the President of the League member *ex officio*. It was difficult at first to secure any additional members. By April, however, the committee numbered in addition Mrs. Benjamin Richards, Mrs. L. H. Schwab and Mrs. Frederick W. Longfellow.

The work of the committee was to be principally to watch legislation at Albany that affected municipal conditions, supporting those that improved and opposing those that were detrimental. On two occasions members of the committee went to Albany on behalf of bills introduced.

The most important measures upheld were a series of bills to protect child labor, introduced through the efforts of the Child Labor Committee of New York. These are now laws under which no child under fourteen can be employed in any factory, store, business or telegraph office, or in the distribution of goods. No child of fourteen or fifteen years can be employed in such establishment without an employment certificate from the Board of Health, and must have a prescribed amount of education to get such a certificate. No such child shall be employed more than nine hours a day in any such

establishment. No child of fourteen or fifteen shall be employed in any factory before 6 A.M., or after 9 P.M., or in any other establishment or occupation before 7 A.M., or after 10 P.M. In New York or Buffalo no boy under ten and no girl under sixteen shall sell newspapers. No boy between the age of ten and fourteen shall sell papers without a permit or badge from the Board of Education, and shall not work later than 10 P.M. It can readily be seen how far-reaching in results for health and morality must be the enactment and enforcement of these laws.

Bills that were heartily opposed by this committee were those introduced to curtail the improvements recently made, under the new charter, for the tenement houses—bills that would deprive the tenant of light, air and other conditions that favored moral as well as physical health. The sentiment was so strong against these changes that the introducers were forced to withdraw them, and only slight modifications were made. The Tenement House Crusade that went to Albany, composed of "all sorts and conditions of men and women," was a telling protest against this iniquitous measure.

A bill to establish a State Farm for Women was also indorsed by the committee. This would provide for a class of wretched women who are sent from station house to jail or penitentiary with no prospect of leading a moral or healthful life. Such a farm would be regenerating in its effects. This was introduced, but not pushed, with the expectation of a re-introduction and work next year.

A bill to abolish the New York State Bedford Reformatory for Women was vigorously opposed, as it was considered inadvisable to deprive women of this means of reformation and undesirable to convert the building into an insane hospital as proposed.

The bill for a separate Court for Children in Brooklyn was strongly advocated and became a law with the appointment of a Special Sessions Judge for this court. This committee is thoroughly convinced that such measures combined with the appointment of probation officers and the separation of young offenders from hardened criminals are in the direction of greater humanity in the enforcement of law for protecting society and the moral improvement of its offenders.

A bill was also opposed in Congress which proposed to amend a section of a bill for transportation of cattle, making it forty consecutive hours during which they need not be fed or watered or rested in transportation, instead of twenty-eight hours. As these animals were for the food of human beings, there was not only the cruelty to animals but the health of the community to be considered, and this committee was glad to co-operate with the Health Committee of the League in opposing the bill.

Another bill indorsed was one to give women tax-payers in third class cities the right to vote on tax propositions submitted to other tax-payers. This is clearly a sequence to the right of women to hold their own property and, as these measures are defeated in Committee by the representatives from our own city, it behooves women property holders to show their support of the principle. Some other bills were advocated for play-grounds and recreation piers.

The Legislators at Albany expressed their appreciation of the interest of this committee in the measures before them. The City Club at first asked us only to join them in a petition for an improved ballot system, but later urged our interest in more vital questions, and gladly forwarded to us notes on all legislation in which they were interested.

MARY H. LOINES,

Chairman.

Committee on Streets

The work of the Committee on Streets during the past year consisted principally in investigating and reporting to the proper departments the few complaints received from the League members. These complaints were always answered, and in most cases the conditions complained of remedied, except in a few instances when not well founded.

It was felt that much good could be accomplished among the children of the city if the Street Cleaning League started by Colonel Waring could be reorganized. After much thought it was found this could not be done on exactly the same lines as before. Therefore an experiment on somewhat new lines was started under the name of the Juvenile City League.

The Middle West Side was chosen as Mrs. Henry Parsons had already made such a good beginning among the children with her "Farm Garden" in DeWitt Clinton Park, and it was felt her advice and assistance would be of great benefit, as has been the case.

On the recommendation of Dr. Gülick of the Board of Education, Mr. William C. Langdon, of Pratt Institute, was engaged as Director. He had to help him a secretary, a chief organizer and two assistant organizers. A room was rented at 555 West 53d Street for headquarters. One thousand three hundred and thirty-two boys were enrolled into forty-two clubs, extending from 38th to 57th Streets, and from Seventh to Eleventh Avenues.

The idea which has dominated the summer's work was to start an organization of Boys' Clubs, which would lead the boys into an attitude of citizenship toward their city and its government by getting them to perform simple duties in accordance with the Sanitary Code and other laws, and to experiment on what lines this could best be done to allow it to spread to all five Boroughs.

Owing to the limited time the principal work was done through the Department of Street Cleaning, but we also have to thank the Board of Health, the Tenement House Department, Department of Corrections and the Department of Charities for the help and information they gave us.

The boys did a certain amount of work in clearing their streets of papers and other rubbish and in getting their families to observe the law in regard to throwing such things into the streets; they also reported, between August 1st and September 24th, 102 dead animals lying in the street.

There were four excursions on the boat of the Department of Corrections to Riker's Island to see the fillings of the Department of Street Cleaning and impress on the boys the need of separating the ashes and garbage; and two excursions around North Brother Island on a boat belonging to the Board of Health. These excursions were most valuable in giving the boys a vivid and real idea of the work being done by the city and the need for many of the regulations which the League tries to get carried out.

Information was also given by a series of seven cards: "Keep Your Streets Clean." "Take Care of Your Garbage." "Have Gentlemanly Manners." "Put Only Ashes in the Ash Can." "George F. Waring, Jr." "Tie Up Your Rubbish in a Bundle." "Do Not Build Fires on the Street Election Night."

The cost of running the Juvenile City League for the two and a half months was $952.22, all of which was donated for this purpose.

It is the earnest wish of the Committee to be able to continue the work, and particu-

larly to try what can be done during the winter; therefore, we ask the help of all who are interested in trying to teach the coming generation what the city really means to them and the duties they owe it.

CATHARINE S. LEVERICH,
Chairman.

Excerpt from the Chairman's Report on Parks

The care and improvement of what natural beauties we have left from the general upheavals of a crowded city brought in seven reports applying to Riverside, Central and Morningside Parks, and the remaining trees on Broadway above 72d Street. Complaints contained in these reports were forwarded to the Commissioner unless they concerned builders or subway commissioners. On one such occasion at 130th Street, where the subway has emerged into an elevated, the trees at the sides were all pressed into service, some to help hoist iron girders and others to prop heavy irons on the sidewalk. A remonstrance was made on the spot, and as it was feared it would be ineffectual the Commissioner was notified, and shortly a reply was received stating that the trees had been liberated of all their burdens. It was told in the subway office at 130th Street that on a former day when guy ropes were attached to some of these trees, a lady living near had hurried out and insisted on their being removed, and they had felt obliged to comply.

On our application the trees in the little park on 73d Street were boxed up by the Commissioner, while a personal request to the foreman of the Building Association caused the boxing of two trees, alive this autumn while all the others on the block have been killed by builders. The attention of a Club was called to the fact that two fine trees were exposed to the teeth of horses, and standards were immediately placed about them. Last, but not least, a saloon keeper returned a courteous and favorable reply when approached about the trees in front of his establishment.

The Commissioner advises that every man, woman and child be urged to care for any tree exposed to destruction, first by remonstration with any person through whose carelessness the tree is being mutilated, and then by calling the policeman whose duty it is to enforce the ordinance.

From the above examples it will be seen that all sorts and conditions of persons are amenable to polite suggestion. And since there are hundreds of trees still barely existing in New York, I would urge upon the women of the city that they devote their powers of observation to the preservation of our trees; and I shall be very glad to increase the membership of this committee, or to give any information to those who love the trees but who do not wish to join the League.

Committee on Health

The Health Committee was organized January 15th of this year, and was first called on to study the pushcart question and one phase of the "Paddy Markets." We began by looking up the bibliography of the subject and the city ordinances relating to this business, if it can be called such. We wrote to all the Settlements in the city above and west of the East Side asking their opinion; almost without exception they replied adversely. Members

of the committee made tours of investigation and conferred with some of the city authorities, but decided just at that time it was not a favorable moment to act.

We also had printed and sent to every United States Senator a petition against a bill aimed directly at the health of the nation; it would have allowed cattle in transport to remain forty hours without water, instead of twenty-eight, as at present. The bill was drawn in the interest of the cattle owners, but did not pass. Many humane societies also sent petitions against it.

We also circulated a number of the pamphlets printed by the City Club on the Board of Health, and members of the committee have done individual work in interesting people not members of the League in the work and in securing members.

The Milk Supply of New York seems a needed and important subject to study, and we have begun the investigation. A member of the committee made a tour with one of the city milk inspectors on his rounds, and the public meeting of the League for May was given to the Health Committee. Dr. Lederle, President of the Board of Health, opened it. Dr. Rowland Freeman gave an illustrated talk on "Dairy Hygiene," and Mrs. Creevey, a member of the Committee, read a paper on the "Milk Supply of New York and Foreign Cities."

KATHARINE S. DAY,
Chairman.

Committee on Tenements

The Tenement Committee of the Woman's Municipal League respectfully begs to submit the following report:

Early in the year the most important work to be undertaken was to co-operate with and to support the Tenement House Department and others in opposing the proposed amendments subversive of the present laws. This was done through Resolutions, the Bulletin and personal work. Fortunately the united efforts to uphold the law were successful and for our part we have a letter of appreciation from Commissioner de Forest.

Believing that whatever work the Woman's Municipal League undertook should be fundamental and far-reaching and not merely local, no effort was made to deal with any small specific problem. The question of the janitor was taken up—his position, duties, responsibilities and rights have been and are being considered. A plan for a Janitor's Training Class which shall better fit these men and women for the position, has been developed and submitted for approval to various people whose opinion on such questions is authoritative. This plan merely awaits some generous donor to give to the Woman's Municipal League $1,000 with which to start the work.

In the same line, i.e., of elevating and dignifying the position of janitor, an investigation is being started into the details of his compensation, condition, nationality, etc., etc., with a view to action based on a fuller and more accurate knowledge than any one now possesses.

In the spring, at the invitation of the East Side Janitors' Association, your Chairman took part in arranging the award of prizes of $100 in a competition in which the condition of the houses of the competing janitors was the matter under consideration. She was one of six judges, and on the night of the award did award the prizes to the winners. It was a most significant occasion and one in whose results, I trust, may be far-reaching.

SADIE AMERICAN,
Chairman.

Committee on Immigration

The Committee on Immigration followed with great interest the work of the women inspectors appointed as an experiment by President Roosevelt, and early in January held a meeting at which members of various immigration societies were present—these societies having never met before together.

The committee looked up places where women could go when they landed and arranged to have a woman meet them; and in two months sixty-eight steamers were met and one hundred and fifty women cared for.

In April a conference was held at 156 Fifth Avenue, relating to young women exposed to the dangers of the present time.

Many letters were written to various organizations especially interested, asking for indorsement of the re-appointment of women inspectors, and the responses were freighted with thanks for the opportunity to say a word for them. The committee worked in connection with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Travellers' Aid Society and Dr. Josiah Strong's Committee in urging Secretary Shaw to retain the women inspectors. A delegate from the Woman's Municipal League was sent with the others to Washington to represent the matter, which resulted in the promise that the inspectors should be superseded by matrons at as early a date as could be arranged.

HELEN VAN C. DE PEYSTER,
Chairman.

Committee on Employment Bureaux

Last April Mr. James B. Reynolds asked the co-operation of the Woman's Municipal League for the investigation of the licensed employment bureaux in the city. A committee was appointed and Miss C. M. Anderson asked to undertake the work. Miss Kellor, representing the College Settlements, also co-operated and brought her experience to bear in the matter. In five months some most efficient work was accomplished. Almost four hundred bureaux were visited and valuable statistics obtained.

The information was turned over to Mr. Reynolds, and he was enabled to act upon facts obtained. Certain offices were closed, others had their licenses revoked. Over six hundred dollars was used in the investigations and the results more than justified the expenditure.

GRACE H. DODGE,
Chairman.

Committee on Ice-water Fountains

The reports from the two fountains erected early in the season, one at the Seaman's Institute, 341 West Street, the other at Union Settlement, 237 East 104th Street, justify the choice of sites, both being in crowded neighborhoods and extensively patronized. The appended letters give encouragement as to the value of the work accomplished:

Hope Chapel, 339 East 4th Street.

It gives me great pleasure to report that though we started somewhat late in the season, our fountain has been running during the hottest weather, and that to the comfort

of thousands of poor women and children who live in our over-crowded tenement region, many of the poor laborers who were working on buildings in the process of construction, as also many passers-by.

It happened that on several occasions when boys tampered with the water, throwing it at each other, I turned it off for a little while that I might teach them a needed lesson. I said turned it off for a "little while," but soon had to repent and turn it on again, for scenes followed which made my heart tender. Little children out walking with their mammas, some but three or four years old, standing before the fountain and crying as though their little hearts would break for want of a cooling drink. I well remember one little fellow who reached up and would not let go of the basin though his mother tugged at him and tried to make him understand there was no water to be had. I simply could not stand such scenes, and chose to wink at occasional wasting. During the hottest days many poor mothers would leave their tenements to get a small kettle of water, which was undoubtedly better than sending off to the saloon to get cool beer.

In the name of the public, I would hereby extend to you the expression of sincere gratitude for the blessings you are conferring on the same, and do hope that many more such fountains will be placed in the overcrowded tenement regions where they surely do much good, exerting also a practical influence in the behalf of sobriety.

Very sincerely,

A. BRUCHLOW,

Pastor Hope Chapel.

From the Seaman's Institute of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

I beg to submit a report to you concerning the ice-water fountain placed here in the early part of the season. Success beyond all expectation. I knew there would be a heavy patronage from pedestrians, but I did not expect truckmen to drive as near as possible, leave a pair of horses and cross the street and fill up from the fountain, many times having to fall in line and wait their turn.

I have personally inspected this splendid "work of mercy." Tired mothers holding little children up for a drink. The working men coming here after eating their dinners. What has this fountain done? Robbed the half a hundred saloons of their prey.

I could not give an average per hour, but I know of one hour when 130 persons drank from the fountain.

Very respectfully submitted,

WALTER A. GARDNER,

Chaplain.

Church of the Sea and Land, 61 Henry Street.

The ice-water fountain has been in constant use this summer and commends its location by that fact, and it is not to the children alone that it appeals but to the men and women. I was quite impressed one day by seeing a tailor neighbor of ours sending his can over at dinner for ice-water instead of to the corner for beer for himself and his men.

W. RAYMOND JELLIFFE,

Minister in charge.

342 East 63d Street.

We believe our ice-water fountain has been a success this summer as it was almost constantly in use. It is not an unusual thing to count 150 children in the street on our

block and many of them have no cold water to drink in their homes. It is a great blessing to the passer-by, and the drivers make frequent use of it. We trust the good work will be continued.

JOHN FROEBEL.

West Side Branch of the University Settlement.

The fountain has indeed been a great success and has been used a great deal. All the truckmen passing by stop and refresh themselves, and all the working men to and from their work stop and drink. Hoping you will continue the good work next year.

Very sincerely,
SUSAN W. FITZGERALD.

The cost of the erection and maintenance of the fountains together with the incidental expenses of the committee amounted to $494.75, which was met by voluntary subscription.

HARRIET A. DILLINGHAM,
Chairman.

Summer Meetings

In submitting a report of the summer meetings held on the East Side to interest the people in the reform administration the number of meetings were limited owing to cessation of work and the closing of most of the Parish Houses and Social Settlement Halls until after September 15th.

The following meetings were held:

St. George's Memorial House, July 15, Mrs. William E. Carter, Speaker.
Union Settlement, July 17, Dr. Jane E. Robbins, Speaker.
Church of the Ascension Parish House, July 23, Mrs. Mary D. Fisk, Speaker.
St. Mark's Parish Mission House, July 28, Mrs. Mary D. Fisk, Speaker.
Madison Square Church House, August 11, Mrs. H. S. Tonjes, Speaker.
St. Bartholomew's Parish House, August 26, Mrs. Mary D. Fisk, Speaker.

During the summer the Chairman made six visits to the League office averaging two hours' work at each visit.

J. C. IRWIN-MARTIN,
Chairman.

Early Closing Movement

A successful mass meeting the first of July and several successive committee meetings held in the interest of the Early Closing Movement in the Bronx, resulted in the closing of the best stores in Harlem at a reasonable hour during the summer and up to the present month. Through the personal effort of Dr. Anne Langworthy-Waite the big Harlem packing house of Richard Webber closed at 6 P.M., beginning early in July. As the holiday season approaches the shops are kept open later and will so continue until Christmas. Mr. Webber remains open until 7 P.M. and later Saturday evening during the holidays.

The work in Harlem is a continuation of that accomplished last year in the Bronx. It is, of course, impossible that stores in the Bronx should be closed if those in Harlem remain open.

District Work

Columbus Circle

In the matter of transportation the League concentrated upon proposed changes of the surface tracks in Columbus Circle which was of great moment to the members of the Riverside Local Improvement District, who acted in concert with the Municipal Art Society, the West Side Branch of the Church Association for the Improvement of Labor, the West End Association and the Woman's Health Protective Association. Mrs. Curtis kindly held a most interesting meeting at her house which was addressed by the Municipal Art Society, and where plans for the improvements were unanimously adopted.

At a hearing before President Cantor it transpired that these plans would receive much opposition, although indorsed by the Society of Engineers. When the Board of Estimate and Apportionment adjourned the necessary appropriation had not been granted and the question is practically in the same position in which it was a year ago.

Annual Report

OF THE

Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch

(Borough of the Bronx)

OF THE

Woman's Municipal League

OF THE

City of New York

NOVEMBER 5, 1903.

As already explained in our last Annual Report the Morrisania Local Improvement District embraces all the territory in the Borough of the Bronx west of the Bronx River, and originally consisted of about fifty separate communities. Five of these communities founded branches of the League and have been educating themselves in the duties and powers of the various city departments by coming into personal contact with the various officials and by urging on them reforms which seemed to the women necessary and proper. A visit to the Park or Street Commissioner gave the women a feeling of ownership in the Department visited, a feeling which should be part of the essence of good citizenship, and which endowed the women with sufficient courage to insist upon their demands. The demands brought with them the commendation of the Department, and as a natural consequence advice and assistance were asked from us, thus proving to us that women in municipal housekeeping were as essential as men, and that they were also recognized as essential when they were willing to become so. A little more courage and perseverance and the League will have taught both men and women that municipal property is everyone's property.

The General Committee, the Governing Committee of the whole branch, has, as heretofore, met monthly and has been the means of circulating petitions to the Legislature to protest against the proposed amendments to the new Tenement House Law, which changes seemed to the women detrimental to the health and morals of the population. It has organized informal gatherings of the members of the whole branch where talks were conducted on civic matters and the women were urged to show their interest actively as well as passively in municipal affairs. Miss Susan I. Martin, at Riverdale; Miss Isabel Niles, at Bedford Park; Mrs. Edwin Johnson, at Tremont; Mrs. M. Maloney, at Kingsbridge, were kind enough to entertain the League at their residences, and the interest aroused by the speakers at these gatherings has materially added to our strength and numbers. Dr. Anne Langworthy Waite, at Morrisania, has the original conception of bringing the members together to a neighborhood tea, at which they were conducted through the Morrisania Divisions territory and shown the improvements which the League had been able to make and those which it had still in prospect.

The aggregate membership of the several divisions has increased from 134 to 160 and the membership has continued its work in studying the problems of city government, and has agitated the questions of road and railroad improvements, sanitation, public comfort

stations, police protection, school extension, park improvements, the correction of tenement house evils, the proper enforcement of contracts and the general physical betterment of the district.

The division representing the territory comprised in *Highbridge* and having for its Chairman Mrs. Henry C. Clark has busied itself with the continuation of the City History Class to which it proposed to give prizes. It has continued to do all in its power to compel the city to grant a franchise to a railway across McComb's Dam Bridge, went to all the hearings on this subject and has at last had its desire fulfilled in the granting of the franchise to the Union Railway. Having had $2,000 offered to it to assist in the immediate purchasing of a site for a Carnegie Library the Chairman visited the Carnegie Library Sites Committee, but could not get the desired satisfaction, as she found the site for a library had already been selected in Highbridge and that the plans for the libraries for the ensuing year had already been made and no other libraries for that year would be considered. The women consider the great improvement made in the disposal of ashes and garbage due to their efforts. Letters to President Haffen in regard to the paving of Ogden Avenue brought forth the desired effect also.

Miss Niles, Chairman of the *Bedford Park* Division, is much to be congratulated for her untiring efforts to keep up the League's work in her part of the district. The members have been striving to improve the surface car service which has not been of real use above Fordham, cars running only every twenty minutes, and have generally taken a lively interest in transit facilities, sending resolutions to the Mayor and Board of Estimate in regard to a five-cent fare on the great railroads within the city limits. The Superintendent of Public Schools in the section asked this division's co-operation in securing improved school facilities, thus showing that the benefits derived from the division's interest in the school the foregoing year had not been forgotten or improperly appreciated.

A mass meeting was organized by the division in the hall of the Botanical Garden, and had for its purpose the teaching of proper sanitation, and especially the proper means of preventing the spread of tuberculosis.

Mrs. F. M. Todd, Chairman of the *Kingsbridge* Division, has been active in getting up entertainments for the benefit of the League and of the Boys' Improvement Society, both of which proved a success financially. She has also spent much thought and time in planning a League Building which was to supply the needs of Kingsbridge by an assembly hall. The Division has looked up the matter of garbage contracts quite thoroughly, and succeeded in preventing the dumping of refuse into Tibbitt's Creek—a triumph to the cause of sanitation. Four blocks of board sidewalks were laid by the authorities at the Division's request. Protests were sent to the Health Department in regard to the condition of Broadway and to the Hudson River Railroad in regard to the bad crossing from the Putnam station to the Hudson River station.

Park Commissioner Eustis honored the *Tremont* Division by requesting its Chairman, Mrs. Gardiner Underhill, to appoint a committee to report to him appropriate sites for comfort stations. This was done, and the sites selected were thoroughly approved of by the Commissioner. The members of the Division had been much annoyed by smoking in the Tremont Harlem River Railroad depot, and after a lengthy correspondence with the general manager of the road had been able to make it the business of the station agent to see that the rule against smoking was obeyed. They called the attention of the Street Department to the filthy condition of Tremont Avenue and made a tour with the Inspector of the avenue. The same complaint had been made the year previously, and had been met with only a temporary improvement. This year, however, the Inspector gave the inhabitants a week to provide themselves with the proper receptacles or suffer arrest. By the week's end the street was a model of cleanliness and has remained so ever since.

The erection of the fountain was a cause for special joy throughout the Bronx, but most especially to the Tremont Division. The work of raising funds had been prosecuted for more than a year, and as the amount grew, the members found that the interest of all concerned grew, and the plumbers, masons, and street excavators employed asked to be permitted to donate their services. The ceremony of presenting the fountain to the city was most impressive and especially gratifying to the divisions, as all parties, political and religious, were united in its dedication to the public.

The *Morrisania* Division (Morrisania, as explained in the previous Annual Report, is one of the localities embraced in the Morrisania Local Improvement District), with Dr. Anne L. Waite as Chairman, has worked hard, with little encouragement, either financially or otherwise. The City History Class, for the benefit of which a stereopticon lecture was held, has been dropped for want of funds, but the Girls' Club, for which entertainments have also been given, is carrying on its work successfully with a membership of eighty. The little library which the League had open in this section is a continual care, but it is hoped that it will prove to be the earnest of the magnificent Carnegie Library, for the erection of which the members have devoted so much of their time. Towards this object a mass meeting was held and 2,600 signatures to a petition obtained. The subject of school extension is one of vital importance to the community and a delegation waited on the Sites Committee of the Board of Education to urge the erection of a new school. Petitions have also been circulated to improve the transit conditions, especially in regard to transfers, and this has been urged on the ground that school children should not be compelled to pay 20 cents to go to and from school.

The large department stores who had signed the agreement to close at ten on Saturday nights have continually to be watched as they do not hold to the agreement, and our women have got the name of League police, and their presence in the street towards ten o'clock is not hailed with delight.

Permission was asked and granted by this branch from the Board of Aldermen to erect a costly drinking fountain.

Respectfully submitted,

JULIA L. D. LONGFELLOW,
Chairman.

Treasurer's Annual Report

RECEIPTS

To Balance in bank Oct 31, 1902	$ 69.24
" General donations	1,701.21
" Committee on Immigration	221.16
" " " Employment Bureaux	600.00
" " " Streets	952.22
" Membership dues outside districts	188.00
" Campaign fund 1902	146.20
" Sale of lantern slides	20.00
" Telephone	3.00
	$3,901.03

DISBURSEMENTS

Office and salary Ass't Sec'y	$1,320.00
Postage and office sundries	178.39
Office furniture and moving	18.30
Telephone	80.93
Printing	264.87
Work of Committee on Immigration	221.16
" " " Employment Bureaus	600.00
" " " Streets	952.22
Campaign 1902	146.20
Christmas City Club Employees	25.00
Balance in Fifth Avenue Bank Oct. 31, 1903	93.96
	$3,901.03

GRACE H. DODGE,
Treasurer

To the Woman's Municipal League:

Again the Consumers' League must call the attention of New York women to their opportunity to aid both working girls and merchants. November, with its better weather than December, its freedom from the Christmas turmoil, is upon us, and our Christmas buying now may be of untold value to hundreds of our sisters. Last winter two-thirds of the establishments on the White List of the Consumers' League were closed for the evening during that terrible week before Christmas. In the remaining stores, looking at the tired and worn faces of those behind the counters and the nervous and tense ones before them, one could not but wonder if this were the proper prelude to wishes for "peace and good will to men." It lies with the shopping public to decide whether the movement for evening closing should advance each year. Do you realize, women of New York, that it is your will that decides this?

Is it conceivable that any thinking person can suppose that the merchants wish to do this thing—wish to overwork scores of men and women, wish to give their own evenings as well as their days to the public? A moment's reflection must bring the conviction that in the hands of the shoppers lies the solution—if they will buy early in the season and early in the day, there need be no such pressure?

A wise man once said that all our troubles in life come from lack of nutrition or lack of imagination. The workers suffer the lack of nutrition—for what sort of good can supper do them, worn out with hours' standing and discouraged with the prospect of two, three or four hours more, before rest comes? And what sort of imagination must purchasers have, who because they have not seen a girl faint before their eyes, or crawl sobbing with exhaustion into bed—what sort of imagination, we say, have our women of New York that they do not grasp, and grasping, turn all their energies to righting such wrongs?

MAUD NATHAN,
President of the New York City Consumers' League.

EMMA BRACE,
Secretary.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. JANUARY, 1904 No. 6

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, January 14th, at 11 a.m., at the City Club, 55-57 West 44th Street.

DR. LUTHER H. GULICK, of the Board of Education,

will speak on "What Athletics Mean"; and

MR FRED S. HALL, of the Child Labor Committee,

on "Child Labor."

MARY L. BUSH,
Secretary.

Employment Agencies

In response to a request from the Acting Chief of the Bureau of Licenses, the attention of the League was called to the fact that the employment bureaux of the city numbering four hundred in Manhattan and the Bronx, are each licensed by the Municipal Bureau of Licenses under the State law. This system has been in force about ten years, but it may safely be called a dead letter, as the inspection has been practically null. Mr. Reynolds took charge of the Bureau of Licenses in March, 1903, and when licenses were brought in for renewal he inspected the premises and concluded that there were gross abuses in many cases.

Having been put in possession of this information, the Woman's Municipal League inspected during last summer nearly four hundred employment agencies and found an appalling amount of evil. In the first place it may be stated to the advantage of those who are employment agents, that a great many persons take out these licenses on false pretenses and follow illicit trade. Many girls, both white and colored, who think they are going to take positions as servants, are brought from other States; many others know the real outcome of their journey. At one place the agent was in Europe collecting girls. So stringent is the administration of the Immigration Department that they would be brought in as individuals seeking employment in domestic service.

Two convictions were obtained in a month, the accused being tried on the grounds of illegitimate business. Their licenses were revoked, but their penalties were only one month imprisonment. Although, as stated, this municipal ordinance has been in force for ten years, the Court was at a loss for precedence and could not clearly convict and give adequate sentence. At the expiration of his sentence one of the two criminals returned to his trade, but was detected by the Mayor's office.

All Communications should be sent to THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE,
Room 1509, 31 Union Square, West

Out of the four hundred, it is safe to say that three hundred are not needed; that one hundred would satisfy the demands in all branches for Manhattan and the Bronx. Of the one hundred which might legitimately find situations for those seeking them, many should move into other quarters, as they are situated either in tenement houses or where there are saloons on the premises. The first of these evils makes the offices a source of disease. For instance, a crowded colored employment agency in a tenement house has been known to disseminate disease in the region. The Church Association for the Advancement of the Interests of Labor has directly traced diphtheria in more than one case to such an agency. Where the intelligence offices are kept in the same premises with a saloon, it is a fact that those seeking employment are expected to drink as well as to pay their fees. Employment agencies for men servants or laborers exact this double and pernicious toll without scruple. In addition to the saloon, a cheap and dangerous lodging house is often run in connection with the employment agency. Many servants out of work are referred to such lodging houses, where they sometimes sleep four in a bed.

Another evil, and one which the municipality should not tolerate, is that of an exorbitant fee. At an agency where insufficient records are kept a servant can be made to pay over and over again, can not sue if the agency does not find a situation, and can not establish any ratio between the size of fee and wages to be received.

The wrongs here enumerated touch thousands of our fellow citizens. We should see to it that applicants receive proper treatment at the hands of agents; that they are not subjected to indignity and fraud; that the employment agent who wishes to deal fairly by both employer and employed is supported by public opinion; that it can not be possible to trace either disease or immorality to the carelessness of the employment agent licensed by the city. There is no more legitimate or honorable profession than that of the employment agent and there are few callings of such responsibility. Surely, women, the housekeepers of New York, should gravely consider before they support any agency which lowers the standard of domestic service. A cook who applied this autumn to an intelligence office in Brooklyn was not considered a desirable applicant as she had a reference of three years' standing. The agent wished to keep the servants perpetually changing in order to receive frequent fees.

Fortunately these evils may be brought to an end by a most comprehensive remedy. The bill which follows is endorsed by many organizations including the Charity Organization Society, United Hebrew Charities, Church Temperance Society, University Settlement, College Settlement, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the Church Association for the Advancement of the Interests of Labor.

An Act

TO REGULATE THE KEEPING OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES IN CITIES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND CLASS WHERE FEES ARE CHARGED FOR PROCURING EMPLOYMENT OR SITUATIONS.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The term person when used in this Act means and includes persons, company, society, association, or corporation; and the term employment agency means and includes the business of keeping an intelligence office, employment bureau, or other agency for procuring work or employment for persons seeking employment, or the acting as agent for procuring such work or employment where a fee or other valuable thing is exacted, charged or received for registration or for procuring or assisting to procure employment, work, or a situation of any kind, or for procuring or providing help for any person, excepting procuring employment as school teachers exclusively.

SEC. 2. No person shall open, keep or carry on any such employment agencies in the cities of the first and second class, unless every such person shall procure a license therefor

from the State Comptroller authorizing the licensee to open, keep or carry on such agency at a designated place, which license shall be issued by the Comptroller upon the payment to him of a fee of one hundred dollars for the first year, and one hundred dollars for each succeeding year for each and every such employment agency in cities of the first class, and a fee of twenty-five dollars for the first year, and twelve and one-half dollars for each succeeding year for each and every such agency in cities of the second class. Every license shall contain a designation of the city, street and number of the house in which the person licensed shall carry on the said employment agency, and the number and date of such license. No employment agency shall receive a license for rooms used for such agency situated on the same floor with the premises licensed for the sale of liquor.

Sec. 3. The State Comptroller shall require such person to file with his application for a license a bond in due form to the people of the State of New York in the penal sum of two thousand dollars in cities of the first class, and one thousand dollars in cities of the second class, with one or more sureties to be approved by the Comptroller and conditioned that the obligor will not violate any of the duties, terms, conditions, provisions or requirements of this Act. The Comptroller is authorized to cause an action or actions to be brought on said bond in the name of the people of the State of New York for any violations of its conditions; and he may also revoke any license whenever, in his judgment, the person licensed shall violate any of the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of every person so licensed to keep a register in which shall be entered, in the English language, the date of each application for employment, the name and address of the applicant, the amount of the fee received from the applicant, the name and address of his or her employer, and the name and address of the person or persons who, through the agency of such licensed person, shall employ such applicant. Such licensed person shall also enter in a register, in the English language, the name and address of every person who shall make application for help or servants, the date of the application, the name and nature of the proposed employment, and the amount of the fee received from the proposed employer. Such licensed person shall give to the proposed employer a receipt showing the amount of the fee received, the date of its receipt from the proposed employer, the kind of employment to be provided, the salary or wages to be paid, and the name and address of the proposed employer. In case the said applicant for help shall not obtain or accept the help procured through the employment agency or licensed person, the said licensed person shall forthwith repay and return to such applicant on demand the amount of the fee paid.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of every such licensed person to give to each and every applicant for employment, from whom a fee of any kind shall be received for procuring such employment, a receipt in which shall be stated the name of the applicant, the amount of the fee received, and the date of its receipt from the applicant, and the kind of employment or situation to be procured. Every such licensed person shall also give to the applicant the written name and address of the person or persons to whom the applicant shall be referred or sent for employment or work. In case the said applicant shall not obtain or accept a situation or employment through or by the procurement or agency of such licensed person within one month after registration as aforesaid, then such licensed person shall forthwith repay and return to such applicant upon demand being made therefor, the full amount of the fee or other valuable thing paid or delivered by said applicant to said licensed person. The aforesaid registers of proposed employers and of persons seeking employment, shall be open during office hours to inspection by the Commissioner of Labor or his agents. Every receipt aforesaid shall have printed on the back thereof, in the English language, a copy of this section, and every such licensed person shall cause a plain and legible printed copy of this Act to be posted in a conspicuous place in such agency or place of business.

No such licensed person shall print, paint, publish or display on any sign, window or in any publication the name or a similar name to that of the State of New York free employment bureau.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of every licensed person to investigate at least two of the references of every applicant registered for employment in domestic service or in any fiduciary capacity. No such licensed person shall knowingly send or cause to be sent any female help or servants to any place of bad repute, house of ill fame, or assignation house, or to any house or place of amusement kept for immoral purposes. No such licensed person shall publish or cause to be published any false or fraudulent notice or advertisement, or give any false information, or make any false promise concerning or relating to work or employment to any one who shall register for employment; and no such licensed person shall make any false entries in such register, or violate any of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. It shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Labor to look after the enforcement of this Act. If he shall have reason to believe that any of its provisions are disregarded or violated, he shall report to the District Attorney of the county wherein such alleged violations shall take place, the facts relating to the violations thereof, whereupon it shall be the duty of such District Attorney to begin and carry on a proper criminal prosecution for such violation. Any person convicted of a violation of this Act, or any part thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. One-half of the fines imposed and of penalties recovered under this Act shall be paid to the Commissioner of Labor, who shall use and expend the same in payment of the expenses of investigating violations of this Act, and in securing information regarding the same.

SEC. 8. All acts or parts of acts heretofore passed relating to employment agencies in cities of the first or second class, and in all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act, are hereby repealed, except the provisions of chapter four hundred and fifteen of the laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-seven known as the labor law.

To Miss Margaret D. Dreier,

Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

Dear Madame: I favor the proposed bill to regulate the keeping of employment agencies, for the following reasons: (1) Under the present law there is too little responsibility placed upon employment agencies regarding the conduct of their business, and too many are in the business who are not able to meet the obligation placed upon them by registering those out of work and in need of immediate employment. (2) The increase of the license fee from $25 to $100 would eliminate from the business those not able to meet their obligations. It is to be remembered that the parties entitled to our sympathy are those out of work, and their rights should be first considered. (3) The requirement that a bond of $2,000 shall be filed is a very definite step in the direction of increased responsibility. Such action would not be an experiment, as the action of the legislature some time ago, in requiring pawnbrokers to pay a license fee of $500 per year and to file a bond of $10,000 was conceived with the same purpose in view, and has worked satisfactory results. (4) Allowing the employment agency to retain 50 cents of the registration fee is but justice to reputable agencies, as there is inevitably a certain amount of expense involved in investigating an applicant and in seeking to obtain the position, whether the effort is successful or not. (5) Our recent experience in New York City, which I am confident is not unique, disclosed that some employment agencies are used for improper purposes, indicating that such abuse should be specifically named and its punishment specifically determined, in order to make conviction less difficult than at present. No one will deny, I think, that the use of employment agencies as a means of entrapping innocent girls and selling them to a life of shame is an outrage which should not continue. (6) Owing to the fact that employment agencies are in more or less correspondence with one another, and are dealing with the assignment of labor throughout the entire State, there is propriety in having the license issued by the State, and supervision and control by the same authority. I earnestly hope that the bill will meet the approval of the Legislature.

I am expressing my opinion as to its importance, not hastily or based solely upon my recent official experience, but upon my experience and observation of the past ten years.

Yours very truly,

JAMES B. REYNOLDS.

December 28, 1903.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. FEBRUARY, 1904 No. 7

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, February 11th, at 11 a.m., at the City Club, 55-57 West 44th Street.

GEN. GEORGE W. WINGATE

will speak on "The Retrenchment of School Appropriations."

MARY L. BUSH,
Secretary

Playgrounds

Dr. Luther H. Gulick, Superintendent of Physical Culture in the public schools of New York, at the January meeting of the Woman's Municipal League spoke upon the meaning of the movement for playgrounds in a great city like New York, which may be considered the type of the great city of the future.

First of all, it is the demand for space in the life of the young human animal. Both our social and our personal descent run back to times of struggle when stone-throwing, running, and the power to dodge an enemy decided whether the individual should survive or perish. From earliest times heredity has weeded out physical failures and established the honor of physical superiority. The young human being, boy and youth, rejoices still in that inherited pride of endless generations. His favorite games, base ball, foot ball, cricket, polo, and golf, are all based on these primary movements of arm and leg that preserved life in the early history of our race. Dr. Gulick has found it impossible to introduce any games not founded on primary movement.

So, too, the moral qualities of endurance, courage and loyalty arose in the same conditions of primitive life. The spirit of the team, the gang, comes in direct descent from the old tribal affiliations. It is the subordination of self to the racial instinct.

In the second place, city life has deprived the child, both boy and girl, of much activity in the form of out-door occupations and games. The natural employment of children in co-operation with their parents has been taken away from them. The boys are without farm work, the sawing and carrying of wood, fetching water, caring for the animals,

and hunting. Girls are without housework and gardening. All these occupations as well as athletic training depend on space which the city home can not have.

In the schools the physical exercises attempt *merely to correct the evils of the school desk.* They can not atone for the lack of out-door work and games. The position at a school desk is in time injurious to respiration, digestion, and heart action. Exercises for straightening the upper part of the back several times a day and some light games once a day are all that can be done to counteract the bad conditions of study in schools. It is impossible to find time for more with the present curriculum. The one thing that can be depended upon to assist out of school in the process of physical development is the child's play instinct for the exercise of which so little space exists in our great cities.

The playgrounds are important, not only to the bodily well-being of the people, but also to their social life. They are the common meeting places of the poor, where the men, the women and the boys hold their gatherings. They afford opportunities for social activity and influence. The boy from 14 to 18 is more loyal to his street gang or his team than to anything else. It is a purely natural instinct that may lead him to good or evil companionship. It is the basis of personal friendships and affiliations in later life. In the gang lies a great power that may be converted from a dangerous evil to a positive social beneficence.

Child Labor

Following Dr. Gulick, Mr. Fred S. Hall, of the Child Labor Committee, said: Child labor, as we know it, is a product of modern methods of manufacture, and came in with the new industrial regime about a hundred years ago. It is the exploitation of children in mechanical production for purposes of profit and money-making. The child's feeble muscles and small intelligence render him unfit for much of the world's work, but the strong machine can be attended by weak hands and with little or no intellectual preparation.

Child labor was first used in England about 1780, after the invention of the spinning-jenny. In our Northern States it was introduced soon after the war; in the South ten years ago. After the first unlimited use of the child, when the employer is free from any legal restrictions, there follows regularly a second stage when the community is aroused and legislation seeks to check the evils by fixing hours for labor, the age of the child, and a certain amount of compulsory education. In England, legislation of this kind began in 1802, in New York in 1886, in the South only in 1903. After this comes again a period when public interest falls asleep and permits new forms of child labor to appear. We abolish it in the mines, we limit it in the factories, but we hardly recognize it in our great shops and messenger service. There are now between 6,000 and 8,000 messenger boys in New York. These, too, need protection from the moral and physical dangers that surround them.

Originators of child-labor legislation passed prohibitory laws aimed at the employer only. He was held to be the sole offender. It is now seen that the parents and the child himself are parties to the contract, and that from motives of need or of selfishness these, too, will deliberately misrepresent the child's age. The New York law now requires that every child must prove his age by other sources than the word of his parents. Jewish boys have a religious record of birth to offer. Jewish girls being unregistered, have two years longer at school.

Exception was sometimes provided for in those cases where the family needed the wages of a child, but the frauds and abuses of this privilege became so great that such laws were abolished in New Jersey and Wisconsin. They have never existed in New York. Exception was also made in allowing labor during the summer vacation on the theory that factory labor interferes only with education, not with physical development, quite forgetful of the fact that vacation is given for the reason that the child has been in school nine months. New York abolished this exception last winter and proved more than ever the need of playgrounds for city children during the long summer vacation. Another gain in this direction is the requirement that a child shall not work after five hours in school. In Pennsylvania it is still possible to work a child all night after the school day.

Our greatest need at present is a uniform law from State to State regulating the employment of child labor. It is perfectly true, for example, that a manufacturer in New

York or Massachusetts, restricted by the laws of those States, can not compete against such conditions as those of the South to-day. A movement is now on foot toward co-operation in a general National Child Labor Committee. A competent body will be ready to pass out to the whole country information concerning the history and legal restrictions of child labor. The movement will aim to secure a universal nine-hour day and to fix the age of legal employment at 14.

By permission we quote the Summary of the Child Labor Laws of New York State published by the Child Labor Committee:

1. No child under 14 years of age may be employed in any factory, store, business or telegraph office, restaurant, hotel or apartment house, or in the distribution of goods or messages. This applies equally to work during school hours, after school hours, on Saturdays and Sundays, and during vacations.[1]

2. No child 14 or 15 years of age may be employed in any of the above-named establishments or occupations without an employment certificate obtained from the Board of Health in each city, town, etc. To secure this certificate the child must have attended school at least 130 days since its thirteenth birthday, must be able to read and write simple sentences in the English language, must be thoroughly familiar with arithmetic through fractions, and must file a transcript of its passport or of its birth certificate, baptismal certificate, or other religious record, as evidence of age. The employment certificate must be filed in the office of the employer, and must be surrendered by him on termination of the employment.

3. No child 14 or 15 years of age shall be employed in any of the above-named establishments or occupations more than nine hours a day (the lunch recess not being counted in the hours of work).

4. No child 14 or 15 years of age shall be employed in any factory before six o'clock in the morning or after nine o'clock at night, or in any other establishment or occupation named above before seven o'clock in the morning or after ten o'clock at night.

5. In New York City and Buffalo no boy under 10 and no girl under 16 years of age shall sell newspapers. No boy between the ages of 10 and 14 shall sell newspapers unless he has received a permit and badge from the Board of Education, and he shall not work later than ten o'clock at night.

6. The State Department of Labor is required to enforce the law regarding factories, and the Board of Health in each city or town is required to enforce the law regarding all other establishments mentioned above.

7. The compulsory education law also is effective for the prohibition of child labor. This provides that all children between the ages of 8 and 14 shall attend school between October 1 and June 1 of each year for as many days as the public schools are in session; and that children 14 or 15 years of age who are not regularly and lawfully employed shall attend school for the same length of time. This law is enforced by the local school authorities, whose duties in this regard are under the supervision of a Department of Compulsory Education connected with the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. For failure to enforce the law one-half the public money apportioned to any city or school district may be withheld by the State Superintendent.

The Juvenile City League

The October number of the Bulletin contained an account of this organization of boys' clubs started by the Committee on Streets of the Woman's Municipal League to lead boys into the attitude of citizenship toward their city and its government. It told of the work done last summer on the middle West Side; of what the boys did to keep their streets clean and to facilitate the removal of dead animals; of the series of cards published to them; of the excursions conducted through the courtesy of City Commissioners; and of

1. Summer vacation work in the above establishments and occupations (except factories) is allowed in the case of children 12 and 13 years of age, in villages and cities of the third class, provided certificates therefor are issued by the Board of Health.

the headquarters in West Fifty-third Street, with its small collection of books and magazines and its small stock of bats and balls and boxing gloves.

The League is now opening up its work again. The work of the summer was distinctly experimental. So likewise is the present winter work, as winter conditions differ decidedly from summer conditions. But so much was learned in the summer and such headway was made that progress in the work bids fair to be steady, and, if the needed money can be raised, uninterrupted henceforth the year round.

The Director, Mr. William Chauncy Langdon, expects soon to have four districts in various parts of the city in operation. These districts will give the League workers opportunity to study and to wrestle with the difficulties of various local and racial conditions. All four districts will be under the League Director and so far as practicable will generally follow the same methods. Also the workers of all districts will come together once a month or once in three weeks for the discussion of common interests. But otherwise the districts will be mutually independent and may differ widely in method of conduct.

The first, the West Side District, is in the neighborhood where the League was started last summer. It will consist of about twenty clubs, representing as many blocks. The summer's office in the little laundry on Fifty-third Street was not large enough, so new headquarters for the district have been opened at 766 Eleventh Avenue, facing DeWitt Clinton Park. From this point the work of the League in this district will be conducted in its fullness by a District Worker and two Assistant Workers. In the territory covered, the twenty blocks, there are easily 1,500, if not 2,000, boys of eligible age—between 9 and 15. The older boys, between sixteen and twenty, and the girls constitute distinct though related problems, equally imperative on the one hand and equally valuable to the solution of the situation on the other, but the League is not yet in a position to undertake more than the one problem of the smaller boys. The Director spent the month of December in the City Departments, hunting up things for the boys to do. Cards on these subjects will be distributed at intervals and the civic work of the boys supervised by the workers. Books and magazines will be kept on hand for the members; athletic goods in larger quantity will be lent; excursions to points of present and historic interest about the city will be conducted; and the headquarters will be kept open as a club room for the boys during the hours of the day when they are out of school. This work is entirely dependent upon money raised for the League, and constitutes its heaviest expense.

A second district will be on the East Side between Fourteenth and Eighteenth Streets. Second Avenue and the East River, covering also about twenty blocks. Rev. Dr. Rainsford has furnished the League with office room for this district in St. George's Memorial House, from which the work of the League will be conducted. In this district a League worker will carry on the civic part of the League's work along lines similar to those followed on the West Side. The club room and athletic features it will not be necessary to supply, as St. George's meets these needs so much better with its gymnasium and parish house. The expense in this district is not nearly so great as in the first, but the League needs money for this work also.

Two other districts, in Brooklyn, will be decided upon within the month. These will be conducted in connection with settlements that want the League work in their neighborhoods. The League would be glad to have as many such districts as practicable, but the settlements must supply the workers and the money necessary for it.

The special characteristic of the Juvenile City League is its wholesale character. It is an effort to do something practical toward getting all the boys of the city civically interested. The League's work is fundamentally different from settlement work. The settlement tries to make every boy it reaches a fine man. But the ballot awaits all and is not a whit the less effective in the hands of the many who never came under the ennobling influence of a settlement in their boyhood than of the comparatively few who did. The League tries accordingly to do with all the boys a little, the little that bears most directly on good government,—to get them to look at their civic duties, however good or bad they be otherwise, from the right point of view, that of doing them.

The money for continuing this work must be raised by private subscription, and as it originated with the chairman of one of the committees of the Woman's Municipal League it is hoped that members may take an interest in sustaining it. Any one interested in contributing to its support should address *Miss Catharine S. Leverich, 30 East Sixtieth Street, Manhattan.*

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. MARCH, 1904 No. 8

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, March 10th, at 11 a.m., at the City Club, 55-57 West 44th Street.

SAMUEL J. BARROWS
Corresponding Secretary of the Prison Association

will speak on the question: "Is Further Restriction of Immigration Necessary?"

MARY L. BUSH,
Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
HELD AT THE CITY CLUB
FEBRUARY 11, 1904

The expected speaker, General Wingate, not having appeared, the Secretary read a letter from him expressing a hope that the League would do its utmost to prevent any curtailment of the great work which the vacation schools are doing.

It was moved and carried that every member send duplicate letters to the Mayor and Comptroller opposing the reduction of funds for vacation schools.

There followed a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the new city ordinance obliging street cars to stop on the near crossing. The Chairman said two considerations were involved—the comfort of passengers entering and leaving the cars, and the safety of pedestrians and vehicles crossing the street in front of the cars. It was generally held that the unusual conditions of the streets during this severe winter had caused exceptional discomfort to passengers obliged to enter the car at the rear end.

On the other hand, it is an advantage in running the cars to slow up only once instead of twice, and pedestrians crossing the street have a greater assurance of safety.

It was moved and carried by a large majority that the meeting favored the repeal of the ordinance in question.

It was pointed out that delivery wagons driven by young boys are a constant source of danger in our streets, and it was voted that blanks should be printed by the League in proper form, which might be sent to firms that permit their wagons to be driven by boys under legal age, or whose horses are left unguarded in the streets.

All Communications should be sent to THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE,
Room 1509, 31 Union Square, West

Committee on Parks

Our work for the restoration of the Boulevard has reached the point indicated by a note from Mr. Holly, Secretary of the Park Commission and just received by Mr. Card, the appointed Chairman of the various organizations, West End, Historic and Scenic Preservation, Municipal Art, etc., united for this end. This note referring to the necessary legislation for placing the Boulevard under the Park Commission preliminary to acquiring the promised funds from Mr. William Barclay Parsons, of the appropriation to be requested from the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, seems to mean, as Mr. Card points out, probably that nothing can be done on the Boulevard before 1905.

Those of you who know how we met and planned and worked last autumn to achieve a result this coming spring, will appreciate the comic story in the last "McClure" of the man who bought the municipal typewriting machine for ten dollars and lost both money and machine and worked in vain to recover one or the other, but was prevented by red tape and indifference. Caprice finally accomplished in his case what business methods did not.

In the meantime we are left more to ourselves than ever, and while waiting for our future chance the trees on the sides of the Boulevard or the West End, or in the side streets wherever we see them are dependent on individual efforts to keep them from constant depredations. Heavy things are leaned against them, scraping off the bark. Horses are left standing near them and sharpen their teeth on the bark. Boys take a chop at them and gash them seriously. In one instance iron rings were driven into two trees on the Boulevard by a painter who fastened his horses to them. It took the efforts of two women of this Committee to stop the use of these rings, and now, if it is not already done, we must be obliged to hammer down the rings to prevent further possibility of use. What I have observed convinces me that nearly all the city trees, even the largest, need to be enclosed in standards or wires, except the trees on the east side of the avenue on Central Park West, as there is no room for horses there between the sidewalk and car track, and they seem to be respected otherwise in their conspicuous positions. But I think we should call attention to any fairly good tree that needs care. I have done so occasionally and sometimes with very favorable results. And now to take it up systematically and to make it easy for anyone to do so, we have prepared the following circular which we will gladly furnish to any one who will make use of them:

The Woman's Municipal League

Riverside Branch

Dear Sir: There is before your store residence a fine tree. As long as it remains unenclosed it is in constant danger of being injured or killed by horses, who will gnaw at it, or boys or even men, who will chop it or otherwise hurt it.

The city and the Park Commission have no money set aside for trees in the city's streets, and it depends entirely on private individuals to place standards about them, to water them in dry seasons, or to renew the earth. All this care is necessary for the well-being of the tree. As standards need not be expensive and wire netting still less so, I venture to ask you to enclose the tree before your door, or to request the owner to do so. This will be a public spirited act on your part and will be appreciated by the people at large, and especially by the Park Committee of The Woman's Municipal League.

Your name should be signed to this circular and some small changes will be needed in the wording of individual cases.

Lucretia Peters, Chairman.

New York City Official Directory

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT—MAYOR'S OFFICE, City Hall, Manhattan.

Mayor, George B. McClellan. Secretary, John H. O'Brien.

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN—Office, 13 City Hall.

President, John F. Ahearn. Secretary, Bernard Downing.

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX—177th Street and 3d Avenue.

President, Louis F. Haffen. Secretary, Henry A. Gumbleton.

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN—Office, Borough Hall.

President, Martin W. Littleton. Secretary, John A. Heffernan.

BOROUGH OF QUEENS—Hackett Building, Long Island City.

President, Joseph Cassidy. Secretary, George S. Jervis.

BOROUGH OF RICHMOND—First National Bank Building, New Brighton.

President, George Cromwell. Secretary, Maybury Fleming.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

President Board of Aldermen, Charles V. Fornes.

City Clerk, P. J. Scully.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE—Stewart Building, Chambers Street and Broadway.

Comptroller, Edward M. Grout.

LAW DEPARTMENT—Staats-Zeitung Building.

Corporation Counsel, John J. Delany.

TENEMENT HOUSE DEPARTMENT—61 Irving Place.

Commissioner, Thomas C. T. Crain. Deputy, John F. Skelly.

BROOKLYN, QUEENS AND RICHMOND—44 Court Street.

Deputy Commissioner, William Brennan.

POLICE DEPARTMENT—300 Mulberry Street.

Commissioner, William McAdoo. Deputy, Thomas F. McAvoy.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, GAS AND ELECTRICITY—21 Park Row.

Commissioner, John T. Oakley. Deputy, Frank J. Goodwin.

DEPARTMENT OF STREET CLEANING—21 Park Row.

Commissioner, John McGaw Woodbury. Deputy, F. M. Gibson.

DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGES—21 Park Row.

Commissioner, George E. Best. Deputy, Gottfried Westernacher.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS—The Arsenal, Central Park.

Commissioner, John J. Pallas.

BROOKLYN AND QUEENS—Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

Commissioner, Michael J. Kennedy.

THE BRONX—Zbrowski Mansion, Claremont Park.

Commissioner, William P. Schmitt.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES—Foot East 26th Street.

Commissioner, John H. Tully. Deputy, J. E. Dougherty.

BROOKLYN AND QUEENS—126-128 Livingston Street, Brooklyn.

Deputy Commissioner, William T. Noonan.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION—148 East 20th Street.

Commissioner, Francis J. Langtry. Deputy, Alexander C. MacNulty.

FIRE DEPARTMENT—157-159 East 67th Street.

Commissioner, Nicholas J. Hayes.

DEPARTMENT OF DOCKS AND FERRIES—Battery Place.

Commissioner, Maurice Featherson.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH—55th Street and 6th Avenue.

Commissioner, Thomas Darlington.

DEPARTMENT OF TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS—Stewart Building, Chambers Street and Broadway.

President, Frank A. O'Donnel.

The public offices of the city are generally open on business days from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., except on Saturdays, when they close at noon.

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. APRIL, 1904 No. 9

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, April 14th, at 11 a.m., at the City Club, 55-57 West 44th Street.

MR. HORACE E. DEMING

will speak on the National Municipal League

MARY L. BUSH,
Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT THE CITY CLUB MARCH 10, 1904

Mrs. Samuel J. Barrows spoke in Mr. Barrows' place on the subject of Immigration. A more important matter to-day, said Mrs. Barrows, than the further restriction of immigration is the distribution of immigrants. New York is situated, as it were, at the neck of the bottle and is painfully aware of the congestion in the stream of peoples that flows through this port. We notice the ebb and flow of the tide, the falling off in some years, the immense rise in others owing to economic conditions both here and in Europe. We are not so much aware of the returning stream, especially of Italians and Greeks, but also of all those who come without their families, with no thought of going inland, aiming to send money home or in a few years to return themselves to spend their lives in their native land. We know the over-crowded state of this city, but we do not know how great are the needs of the South and West for laborers in mines and harvest fields.

A large work is already done by the different peoples for their own in this much needed way of scattering. Both Russians and Italians have dispersion societies and endeavor to send their compatriots to the regions inland which are reported short of hands. There is also a kind of natural distribution going on. The Scandinavians go by preference to the cold Northwest and the South Europeans to the milder climates of the South and Southwest. A line of steamers will soon be running direct from the Mediterranean to our Southern ports.

All Communications should be sent to THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE,
Room 1509, 31 Union Square, West

It is a mistake to regard immigration as a recent development. Since the end of the eighteenth century a continually varying current of foreigners has flowed toward our shores. First came the Scotch in large numbers, then in the early nineteenth century the Irish, and afterward the French Canadians into the New England mills. Later came the Germans and Scandinavians, and finally the peoples of Southern and Eastern Europe.

Objection is raised to-day chiefly against those from the Southeast, Hungarians, Rumanians, etc., people of the gypsy class. Yet these often prove themselves clever tinsmiths, sooner able to support themselves here than most others and learn English very rapidly.

The Anti-Immigration League has expended a large fund to get bills adding more and more barriers to be overcome by the stranger at our gates. The Labor Unions, too, consider their own labor affected by the increase of competition, while the truth is the competition is greatly lessened by the fact that the immigrant must learn almost everything anew. His ways of doing things in the mechanical trades and the cultivation of the soil are very different from our ways. It is held by most that we now have enough law to protect us from the insane, the indigent and the immoral.

Our own people regard contemptuously the new-comers who are merely day laborers, and usually know them by the general term "dagoes." In justice it should be remembered that this is the path that all must follow while learning the new language. Most unfortunate among the strangers are those who, with a good education in their own tongue, can do nothing with their hands and are therefore idle a long time before they have learned English.

According to the present law the authorities may deport any immigrant who becomes dependent upon public charge within one year after his arrival. It is satisfactory to know that not one of the more than eight hundred thousand who came last year was reported to be a pauper in any State. The criminals and paupers are American born; they are not new immigrants. In Massachusetts figures show that only three Italians in one thousand were arrested last year.

Committee on Legislation

The chief work of the Legislative Committee has been to draft the bill to regulate employment agencies in cities of the first and second class, introduced by Mr. Edward R. Finch in the Assembly on March 3d, and committed to the Committee on Cities in the Assembly, of which Mr. J. L. Burnett is Chairman.

The Chairman of the Legislative Committee was asked to represent the League on the Committee, which had the framing of this bill in hand.

A number of meetings and conferences with many representatives of different organizations was held, and as a result of the effort to meet the interests involved, a public meeting was called at the City Club on Tuesday morning, March 15th, at 11 o'clock. Miss Chanler and Miss Dodge addressed the meeting, and Miss Kellor gave some of the results of her investigations. Tenement House Commissioner Thomas C. T. Crain and Health Commissioner Dr. Darlington were both present, and expressed their hearty approval of the bill, as well as their willingness to serve on the Committee which the Chairman was empowered to form, and which was to be representative of the different interests involved in this subject, and to be called the Special Committee on Employment Agencies.

It is of interest to remember that the investigations of the Woman's Municipal League and the College Settlement Association covered a period of two years, and as a result, more than 300 records and affidavits were sent to Mayor McClellan at his request.

The first meeting of the special Committee on Employment Agencies was held on Wednesday, March 23d, at the headquarters of The Woman's Municipal League, at 11 A. M., 21 members being present. Miss Rhodes acted as Secretary pro tem, and the minutes of the meeting are on file. The bill was studied in detail, and after a general discussion, upon motion, it was unanimously voted to present the bill with its amendments at the public hearing in Albany the following day.

A public hearing before the Cities Committee of the Assembly in Albany, was held on this bill on Thursday, March 24th.

Miss Chanler, Dr. Darlington, Commissioner of Health Department, Canon Chase, of Garden City, Miss Frances A. Kellor, Hon. John F. Maher, Mr. Thos. W. Hotchkiss, Counsel for the Protective Association of Employment Agencies, as well as the Chairman of the Legislative Committee, spoke in favor of the bill. There was no opposition openly expressed, but an adjourned meeting was called for Tuesday, March 29th. This was done at the request of Mr. Jacob D. Remsen, the Republican Assemblyman, and one of Brooklyn's representatives on the Cities' Committee.

Besides those mentioned, the bill was also approved by the Hon. John McMackin, Commissioner of Labor. He warmly advocated it, because he looked upon the measure as a step in the right direction, but thought the penalty should be greater. In answer to this suggestion the Chairman would state that it has seemed wiser to depend upon certainty of punishment rather than severity, as the latter so often creates hesitancy to inflict it.

At the adjourned meeting on Tuesday, March 29th, the Chairman was able to present the bill for a second time, all possible opposition having been met in certain wise amendments introduced, and it was stated that the bill would be reported out of committee in the afternoon. At the second hearing Miss Chanler, Canon Chase, Miss Kellor, Hon. J. F. Maher, Mr. Thomas W. Hotchkiss, Mr. Bradbury, Mr. Odell and Mr. Miles were all present, as well as the Chairman of the Legislative Committee. It is a pleasure to add that the Educational and Industrial Union of Buffalo also endorses the bill.

Every member of the League is earnestly requested to write, endorsing Mr. Finch's bill, No. 1099 and 1733, to the Hon. Nathaniel A. Elsberg, Senate Chamber, Albany, N. Y., and to the Hon. Horace White, Senate Chamber, Albany, N. Y.

The regular meeting of the Committee took place on Thursday, February 18th. The Chairman, the Secretary, Mrs. Loines, and five members being present.

The Senate bill, No. 126, relative to the salaries of women Probation Officers, was endorsed by the Committee.

The bill introduced by Senator Hawkins, giving discretionary powers to the Tenement House Commissioner, met with strong disapproval, and a letter was sent to Senator Hawkins and Governor Odell, as well as to Senator Elsberg. The latter expressed his unqualified disapproval.

Senate bills Nos. 208, 291 and 465, relative to the commitment of Juveniles and *vagrant* women, was heartily endorsed, after consultation with the State Charities Aid Association.

The Committee also endorsed bill No. 1276 introduced by Mr. Farrell in the Assembly, relative to matrons in our jails. The necessity for more matrons in all our prisons, jails, workhouses, or places of detention, where women prisoners are detained, is imperative.

Through consultation with the members of the Legislative Committee, the Committee protested against Senator Marshall's bill, providing for the establishment of Municipal Clubs for boys throughout the five Boroughs of the City. As the necessity for boys' clubs is great, the opposition to Senator Marshall's bill rests upon a careful study of the entire question, and after both sides had been heard. Those most familiar with boys' clubs, the East Side workers, as well as the Settlement workers of both Manhattan and Brooklyn, are with us in this opposition.

A very strong statement was also sent, protesting against Senator Dowling's bill No. 260, relative to the erection of temporary school buildings in the public parks. This attack upon the public parks of the people must be opposed with the utmost determination. Of the 6,862 acres of park land in New York City, there are but thirty acres on the East Side below 14th Street for a population of 500,000. The parks endangered are, in Manhattan, Mulberry Bend Park, Corlears Hook Park, Tompkins Park, Thomas Jefferson Park and John Jay Park. In Brooklyn, the Williamsburg Bridge Park, the Winthrop Park, Sunset Park, Canarsie, New Lots Playground, and Linden Park. The total number of children on part time on March 1st was 74,768. Of these 35,489 were in Manhattan, and 31,342 in Brooklyn. Every member of the League is earnestly requested to send her protest to the Hon. Victor J. Dowling, Senate Chamber, Albany, N. Y.

MARGARET D. DREIER, *Chairman.*

Public School Appropriation

On the 7th of October last the Board of Education requested of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment that a sum of about $23,000,000 be allowed for the support of the Public School System in the year 1904. This sum exceeded the amount allowed in 1903 by about $2,000,000, but this advance had become necessary because of the very great increase in every department that had taken place during the past year, and by the certainty of a continued increase during the year to come. There are about 37,000 more pupils in the schools than ever before. A month later the Board of Estimate and Apportionment informed the Board of Education that the allowance for the support of the schools in 1904 had been fixed at about $21,000,000, or ten per cent. less than had been asked for.

After a careful revision of the list of all necessary expenses and existing salaries the Board of Education found itself with a sum of about $446,000 for salaries of new teachers needed to meet the increased attendance, for the support of evening schools, evening lectures, vacation schools and recreation centers. To this sum might possibly be added from unexpended balances of previous years and from State funds, about $265,000. It was estimated that 580 additional teachers would be needed to care for the increased attendance and that their salaries would require not less than $200,000. There is left about $500,000 for the evening schools, evening lectures and recreation centers, for which the original estimate was $1,085,000.

It was feared that it would be necessary to reduce the number of sessions of the evening schools, and to discontinue the recreation centers, vacation schools and playgrounds entirely for the year 1904. The evening schools were carried on, however, up to the first of March as usual, and whatever curtailment is made in their time will be made in the fall term, if the Board of Estimate and Apportionment does not provide the funds to maintain them. For the further needs of vacation schools and playgrounds it is proposed to appeal to the Legislature for permission to reopen the Budget. Such a bill has already been introduced into both houses of the Legislature. It is known as Senate Bill No. 498.

So much for the financial situation. But the Comptroller went further, he stated publicly that the Board of Education is extravagant and wasteful with the funds at its disposal.

The Board of Education then appointed on January 14th a special Committee of Five to "invite and co-operate with the Comptroller to ascertain where and how economies may be made." After much correspondence with the Comptroller the Committee of Five brought in a report on February 24, which the Board of Education at once adopted. This report deals with the criticisms of the Comptroller and with the general subject of economy in school administration.

A report was also published by Mr. Grout setting forth a theory of education and criticising the course of study in the elementary schools of New York. This document was most revolutionary in character and recommended nothing less than the elimination of drawing, singing, hygiene, sewing, cooking, manual training and nature study, to the end that the salaries of the special teachers employed to aid the regular teachers in giving instruction in these branches may be saved. In refusing to entertain this proposal for a moment, the Committee of Five of the Board of Education takes occasion to remark that "the elementary course of study in this city has not been for twenty years the course to which Comptroller Grout would have us now return. The reform that has slowly but surely developed in New York City is but a part of a movement that has affected the entire public school system of the country."

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. MAY, 1904 No. 10

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, May 12th, at 11 a.m., at the City Club, 55-57 West 44th Street.

MISS ALICE L. WOODBRIDGE,
Prison Visitor, Women's Prison Association

will speak on Police Matrons in Station Houses

MARY L. BUSH,
Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
HELD AT THE CITY CLUB
APRIL 14, 1904

Mr. Horace E. Deming, of the National Municipal League, said that municipal government is often held to be a kind of business enterprise, but it is in reality the most complex form of government known. The problem of democracy has ever been to secure a proper sense of responsibility for the exercise of political authority. For one thousand years our race has striven to make officials accountable to the people for the performance of public duties, and to just the extent in which we have succeeded do we have democracy. The collapse of democratic government has long been most marked in our cities where, with the phenomena of rapid growth unknown before the present day, government has apparently grown steadily worse. The importance of this state of things can only be realized when we know that city voters form a larger and larger proportion of the national body of voters, and therefore the preponderating power in national politics. The city boss can control not only his town, but his state, and the representation of that state in Congress.

With these facts in mind the Municipal League of Philadelphia invited a National Conference for Good City Government to meet in Philadelphia in January, 1894. The result of the Conference was the formal organization in the following May of the National Municpal League of which The Woman's Municipal League of the City of New York is an affiliated member. The first object of the society as stated in the constitution is, "To multiply the numbers, harmonize the methods and combine the forces of all who realize that it is only by united action and organization that good citizens can secure the adoption of good laws and the selection of men of trained ability and proved integrity for all municipal positions, or prevent the success of incompetent or corrupt candidates for public office."

Annual meetings of the association have been held every year since its formation, and the proceedings of these meetings published in book form, have met a need for

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concise and accurate information and for intelligent discussion of the problems confronting citizens of American municipalities.

The important work of the League began in 1895 with a careful study of existing political conditions in cities and towns. The information gathered on this subject fills ten volumes and tells the same story everywhere of bad, cumbrous and expensive government. It seemed as if the principles of democracy had completely broken down, and as if European cities were more truly democratic than American ones. Our municipal governments not only did not represent the average citizens, they actually represented the worst elements, the submerged tenth.

It was decided that the National Municipal League should select for its work not merely the overturning of this or that administration, but the study of municipal government on its legal side, and should endeavor to educate from the top downward. After the descriptive work was concluded an effort was made to utilize the information gathered; to correlate and adopt a definite program for municipal action. At the end of two years' work the committee appointed presented its report at the Annual Conference in Columbus, 1899, where after thorough discussion there was formulated a Municipal Program which has received wide-spread commendation and acceptance. The Program, consisting of certain proposed constitutional amendments and a municipal corporation act, has been published in a small volume and has been used by constitutional conventions and numerous recent charter commissions.

In 1900 the League inaugurated other important lines of work: First, that of instruction in municipal government in educational institutions; second, that of uniform municipal accounting and statistics.

Teachers and university professors have been interested and as a result courses in civics and politics will receive more attention in the future, while a special text book dealing with municipal government will shortly be published. The practical value of the work of the Committee on "Uniform Accounting and Statistics" is shown by the fact that its schedules have been adopted and used in more than ten leading cities. Other cities have agreed to do the same, and before long a real comparison between the finances and statistics of our chief cities will be possible—a very great gain in the direction of economy and efficiency.

Furthermore the League is steadily working towards the requirement of a higher standard of capability in the man nominated for office. It holds that the machinery of election is not adapted to present conditions, and that the system of nomination must be democratized as the ballot has been. A scheme for a new method of nomination will be submitted at the annual meeting of the League in Chicago in April. Since the organization of the League in 1894 other important bodies have been formed to consider certain phases of the municipal question. Such are the American Society of Municipal Improvements, The League of American Municipalities and the American League for Civic Improvement. Active steps have now been taken to bring them all into effective relationship through a Committee on Federation.

Attention is called to the Civic Week in St. Louis in June, and to the exhibition of the American League for Civic Improvement where the construction of a model city street will be shown with the latest arrangements for heating, lighting and drainage of houses.

To the President of The Woman's Municipal League:

My Dear Miss Chanler.—It is a great gratification to me that the subject of Police matters will be presented at the next public meeting of the League. There has been a tremendous improvement in the station houses of the city since I began to visit them over ten years ago. Then there were lodging rooms where, at night a lot of filthy, diseased and half-drunken people were allowed to stretch themselves out on a plank floor provided for the purpose, a few inches above the floor of the room. The lodging

room for men was separate from that for women, but they could call across oftentimes, and the lodging room was a place for spreading vermin, disease and moral pollution. A great step toward progress was taken when, under Mr. Roosevelt, the lodging rooms in the station houses were abolished.

Perhaps the greatest advance was made when matrons were appointed. Before their appointment the examinations of women were made by men! There was at first, a strong prejudice against the matrons. Many of the men did not want "women bothering around the station houses." Now there is only here and there an individual who does not appreciate the work done by the matrons. It is the general testimony that women prisoners are more tractable and less profane than they used to be. Many drunken women have said to the policemen taking them in: "Let me alone. I'll go with the lady," and in many cases they have gone quietly with the matron instead of kicking and screaming with the policeman.

So great is the appreciation of the work of Police Matrons that many benevolent women and benevolent organizations advocate matrons at every station house. It has been my feeling, and of the Woman's Prison Committee with which I am associated, as the result of serious consideration, that this is not necessary. What **is** needed is the enforcement of a law passed through the influence of the Woman's Prison Association, of which Mrs. S. H. Emerson is president, directing that women prisoners be taken, when first arrested, to a station house where there is a matron. It is this matter that I hope to hear discussed at the next public meeting May 12th, and for which I thank you for furnishing the opportunity. Very truly yours,

ANNA M. JACKSON,
Chairman Committee on Police.

April 28, 1904.

Committee on Transportation

In an effort to better conditions in surface cars the Committee on Transportation endeavored to first secure a definite statement of the duties and obligations of conductors and motormen in their relation to the traveling public, which information will be obtained by personal interview with the President of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company at an early date. Meantime special attention is being given to the introduction into the surface cars "Rules and Regulations" similar to those found in the elevated trains to enforce the punishment of offenders against the spitting ordinance.

In order to strengthen the position of the Committee in asking for these things and for a more intelligent grasping of the subject, letters were sent to the cities of Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Paul and St. Louis in reference to the manner of conducting surface car systems, and interesting information obtained. In Philadelphia the spitting ordinance is much more elaborately worded than our own, declaring it a nuisance to expectorate on "sidewalks as well as in public conveyances, floors of theatres, railroad stations and other places resorted to by the public. Any person violating this ordinance shall be subject to penalty of one dollar, to be recovered as debts of like amount are now by law recoverable," and "it shall be the duty of the Department of Public Safety to cause this ordinance to be enforced. Conductors will see that the above ordinance is strictly enforced." This notice is signed by the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company. Another notice over the same signature: "Conductors should not permit cigar stumps (lighted or unlighted), cigarettes or pipes to be taken in the cars—they emit an objectionable odor, offensive to passengers."

In Boston the Board of Health notice covers the same ground as that of New York, the forfeit of violation not to exceed $100. The stopping places as a rule, are on the "far side" of the crossing.

In Chicago so far as could be learned, the system is inferior to our own.

Through Dr. Darlington the Committee learned that the Board of Health is responsible for the notices now in the elevated cars, and it was doubtful if they were allowed to be duplicated for the surface cars. The Metropolitan Company does not wish to hold their employees responsible. This Company, while desirous of pleasing the public, feels that the public is such a variable quantity that the Company's action would have to veer to every point of the compass to keep to the windward of public opinion so variously expressed.

In the matter of the spitting ordinance about two hundred cases a week are being prosecuted by the Health Department, but the most beneficial results are expected along educational lines. The Board of Education is having prepared 1,000,000 printed slips on the matter of this ordinance to paste in the school books of the public school children. Much more is done for cleanliness than the ordinary traveler thinks. The cars are washed inside every day; the conductors are not allowed to wet their fingers to separate transfer slips; the conductor is provided with sawdust which he is expected to scatter on any spot where a nuisance has been committed, and other things of like import.

The influence of the Committee on Transportation made itself felt in the efforts to secure the repealing of the "near side" ordinance.

MARY C. PERCY,
Chairman.

District Work

Through the efforts of the **Greenwich Branch** of The Woman's Municipal League a Club for young men has been opened on the lower West Side, and an association, mainly consisting of people living below 23rd Street, called the Neighborhood Association, has been formed to assist in carrying on the work. The Club offers gymnastics, recreation and games to the men, with good surroundings, and we expect it to become a power and help to good citizenship in the neighborhood. A Civil Service class is to be organized, and we hope one in "Civics" (although probably not under such a grand name), and others as opportunity offers. The Club is at 799 Greenwich Street, where we have rented a room from the West Side Juvenile Club, with services of a Superintendent, thus somewhat economizing in salaries as we pay for only part of his time.

We would be very glad of books and a few yachting or hunting prints and photographs, and of course funds are needed to carry on the work. The Treasurer is Mrs. James B. VanWoert. Jr., 38 West 9th Street. (Checks should be made payable to Jessie Varker VanWoert, Treasurer.)

KATHARINE DAY, Chairman.

Highbridge reports gratifying results from many requests made to President Haffen. Among them the laying of sidewalks on Sedgwick Avenue and instruction relating to the proper mode of procedure in changing the house numbers on Woody Crest Avenue. The petition for better mail service brought forth the placing of an additional letter box and an encouragement for increased postal delivery before the close of the year.

The **Kingsbridge Branch** assisted in obtaining a temporary fire engine house, and their request for more cars on Broadway has been granted. **Kingsbridge** is especially interested in following the movements of the New York Central Railway Company, who own the land and are to make application for permission to fill in the old horse-shoe curve at Spuyten-Duyvil Creek, which will add to the unsanitary condition of that locality. The Spuyten Duyvil Creek bill confers on the Board of Estimate and Apportionment the full power to make such disposition of this land as it may deem fit. Nearly one hundred property owners of Marble Hill and Kingsbridge have appeared before the Mayor protesting against the approval of a bill which grants the right to fill in the land.

JULIA L. D. LONGFELLOW, Chairman Morrisania Branch.

The office calendar of League meetings shows twelve regular and twenty-one committee and sub-committee meetings held during the month of March.

At the last meeting of the Central Committee action was taken in regard to dropping from the membership all who had not paid annual dues for this year. The Directors are extremely sorry to lose the interest of any woman living in New York, but it is impossible to meet the expense incurred by sending out the Bulletin, which is our only official announcement of meetings, to those who are in arrears.

Checks may be sent to Miss Grace H. Dodge, Treasurer,

Room 1509, 31 Union Square, West.

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. JUNE, 1904 No. 11

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, June 9th, at 11 a.m., at the City Club, 55-57 West 44th Street.

MR. LAWRENCE VEILLER
Secretary of the City Club

will speak on The Tenement House Problem.

MARY L. BUSH,
Secretary.

The Employment Agency Bill

The bill to regulate Employment Agencies in cities of the first and second class which was introduced in the Assembly by Mr. Finch, passed both houses of the Legislature, and received the signature of the Governor. The bill was the outcome of investigations carried on under the direction of The Woman's Municipal League and the College Settlement Association. The investigations covered a period of two years, and 300 records and affidavits were sent to Mayor McClellan, at his request, by Miss Grace H. Dodge. As a result of this new law, the Mayor has appointed Mr. Frederick L. C. Keating, Commissioner of Licenses, whose readiness to co-operate it is a pleasure to acknowledge and whose comprehension of the subject has already proven of great value.

The attention of The Woman's Municipal League was drawn to the existing evils by Mr. James B. Reynolds, Secretary to Mayor Low, when the applications for renewal of licenses came to his notice, and further emphasized by the testimony of our probation officers and of women prisoners in our jails. The Woman's Municipal League, under the chairmanship of Miss Dodge, started investigations. This work was placed in the hands of Miss Frances A. Kellor, a graduate of Cornell University and Law School, and a post-graduate of the University of Chicago, Miss Anderson, and the Hon. John F. Maher.

The mask of the Employment Agent is the favorite disguise of the sharper and the procurer. The fraudulent offices can be divided into two classes—those financially dishonest, and those distinctly immoral. It is very important to emphasize the distinction between the good and the disreputable Agencies, and it is necessary to understand that many of the abuses of to-day are the direct result of the ease with which licenses could be secured under the old law. Dishonorable men and women, while appearing to secure work for honest and ignorant girls, degrade, debase and ruin them. Not only are those women subjected to many indignities by so-called office keepers, but they are unsuspectingly sold into disreputable houses and kept as prisoners. It is well known that the Immigration

authorities hesitate to release girls except to responsible relatives and friends; so the fraudulent office has an army of enlisters who pose as friends and relatives, and secure the girls. Degraded women in our jails and reformatories are the aftermath.

There are about 600 offices in Brooklyn and New York. In New York, out of 313 offices, 120 are in tenements, 107 in apartments, 49 in business houses and 39 in residences.

The framing of the bill was the result of careful study. As the new law stands to-day, it is indorsed by the Health and Tenement Commissioners of our city, by all the reputable agents, and by a large number of philanthropic institutions, including all the Settlement Workers in our several boroughs. We worked two years; we have been slow in seeking legislation, and we have tried to procure a law which in its practical dealings with the evils would at the same time protect the honest business interests involved. The law provides both for the licensing of the person and the place, in order to stop the settled habit of disreputable agents of shifting their headquarters from neighborhoods where their character has become known. It forbids the location of agencies in questionable resorts or in living rooms of tenements, whence disease is often spread broadcast; in saloons, or on premises where intoxicating liquors are sold, excepting cafes and restaurants in office buildings.

The law forbids the sending of girls to questionable places or disreputable resorts, either as servants or inmates, to houses of ill-fame or assignation houses, or to any house or place of amusement kept for immoral purposes.

The law forbids any agency, knowingly, to permit questionable characters or procurers to frequent its offices. It states that no licensed person shall publish or cause to be published any fraudulent notice or advertisement. It also protects the contract laborer by demanding a detailed statement to be filed with the Mayor by the employer within five days after the contract is made, and a duplicate copy, in a language which he is able to understand, must be given to the applicant for employment.

The penalty for any violation of the provisions of this law constitutes a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of $250.00, or imprisonment for not more than one year. The law is warmly approved by the Hon. John MacMackin, Commissioner of Labor. At the public hearing in Albany he strongly advocated the bill, because he looked upon the measure as a step in the right direction, though recommending a severer penalty. This question naturally received careful attention, but it has seemed to us wiser to depend upon the certainty of punishment rather than upon its severity, as so often there is a hesitancy to inflict a severe penalty.

When the result of our investigations first became known, skepticism was aroused in many quarters as to the veracity of our statements. The reputable agents questioned our accuracy. They sent out their own investigators, who returned corroborating the testimony of Miss Kellor and her associates. The Health Department sent out its own inspectors; the Tenement House Department did likewise, and each time our testimony was verified.

Like nearly all work outside of a woman's home, this work is the direct result of personal sympathy with some individual in distress.

The financial frauds prevailing in many of the so-called Employment Agencies are very serious, but are the least of the evils. The dishonest agent sends our fake advertisements claiming to procure employment for anyone paying a registration fee of one dollar or more, and the payment of that fee ends the business transaction as far as the agent is concerned. These advertisements are to be found in innumerable newspapers published in the smaller towns and country places. The agencies have a system of runners. These runners are similar in character to the so-called "cadets" in our city. If financial wrong is the only wrong contemplated, the runner seeks to secure places for young girls from the country, especially from the South, gets them situations and claims their wages as the fee for his services. Often these agencies are behind the liquor saloon, and the only entrance to those so-called employment offices, for girls as well as for men, is through the saloon.

We have records and affidavits which cannot be given for publication, for they deal with facts too grave to give to any but those who are willing to study further for the purpose of attempting to meet the conditions. They reveal an abyss of brutality which we can only face with the faith and courage that come to us through seeing life as a whole.

One of the great facts to be remembered is that the law will protect an honest girl in her search for honest work. The right to be protected when seeking work must be granted to every woman in any community which claims to be civilized, to say nothing of counting itself Christian.

We hear much of the difficulty of getting young girls to enter domestic service. Do we realize, that owing to a prejudice as great among their class as prejudices are apt to be in ours, the girl who enters domestic service is debarred from membership in social clubs and many other organizations, or even amusements, including among the latter the better dance halls? Many of the cheaper employment agencies run lodging houses in connection with their business. Even in some of the better class employment agencies, men and women have the same waiting room; no sanitary conditions are considered; young and old, drunk and sober, good and bad, are crowded together daily from nine to four o'clock, with nothing to do but idle and gossip. Need we wonder that intelligent women, or good but ignorant girls, refuse to be subjected to those indignities? We ask respectable girls to face conditions which are disreputable, and then wonder that the better ones turn away.

One of the great triumphs of the disreputable agents is that they offer a place, free of charge, to young women in domestic service, where they may receive their visitors without question, and we, the householders of New York, must share the blame and disgrace in that we have made this factor for degradation possible, because of our unwillingness, in many instances, to grant to maids the opportunity to meet their friends under the shelter of our homes.

We are willing to build reformatories; we think it our duty and privilege to visit other women in jails and prisons, but we rarely ask what we ourselves have done toward sending them there.

The average girl in domestic service is a stranger in our midst, sometimes an immigrant, but often coming from a distant town or country place to seek work. When she leaves the home of one employer she generally has the alternative of visiting friends, or of entering some cheap boarding house. In many instances, the girl who has not secured a place the first day will leave the Employment Agency, asking for the privilege of storing her bundle over night. *Where* does that girl spend the night? When a girl is out of work, friendless and penniless, that is the time when she can least resist temptation, especially when it is attractively presented to her; and that is also the time when the forces for good should prove themselves a thousand-fold stronger than the forces of evil. Do they?

There is thoughtlessness and ignorance in connection with a subject vitally affecting our homes. We know that this greatly neglected work can never be lifted out of its present demoralization until every woman in New York holds herself responsible for the conditions we have studied. We have made the struggle for an honest life harder. We hear much of the need of improvement among employees but measured against their ignorance, we have our education; against their limitations our opportunities, and these challenge us to a recognition of the fact that the work of improvement must begin with us.

MARGARET D. DREIER.

Special Committee on Employment Agencies

Miss MARGARET D. DREIER, Chairman.

Rt. Rev. DAVID H. GREER, Bishop Coadjutor, of New York.
Canon WILLIAM SHEAFE CHASE, Garden City, L. I.
Rev. EDWARD W. MCCARTY, St. Augustine's Church, Brooklyn.
Dr. DARLINGTON, Commissioner Health Department.

Mr. Thomas C. T. Crain, Commissioner Tenement House Department.
Miss Chanler, President of The Woman's Municipal League.
Miss Grace H. Dodge, Treasurer of The Woman's Municipal League.
Miss Frances A. Kellor, College Settlement Association.
Mr. Bradbury, Counsel for Hapgoods.
Mr. Odell, Counsel for Hapgoods.
Mr. Miles, Counsel for Business Opportunity Co.
Mr. James Bealin, State Free Employment Agency.
Miss E. J. Stone, President Alliance Bureau.
Mr. Thomas W. Hotchkiss, Protective Association Employment Agencies.
Mr. Melwin G. Winstock, East Side Employment Agency Association.
Mrs. L. Seely, Employment Bureau.
Mr. Charles O'Conner Irwin, Employment Agent.
Mrs. William G. Shailer, President New York Home Economic Association.
Miss Rose Sommerfeld, Clara de Hirsch Home for Working Girls.
Mrs. Arthur von Briesen, German Housewife Society.
Mrs. Rosalie Loew Whitney, The Legal Aid Society.
Mrs. O. R. Rea, Women's Trade Union League.
Mr. William I. Nichols, Bureau of Charities, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Miss Marion Houston, City History Club.
Miss Edith Greer, Head Worker, Domestic Science Dept. Pratt Institute.
Mrs. Charles N. Judson, President Brooklyn, Y. W. C. A.
Miss Harriet Taylor, General Secretary, Y. W. C. A., New York.
Mr. Paulding, Board of Trustees, Bellevue Hospital.
Mr. Edward T. Devine, Charity Organization Society.
Dr. David Blaustein, The Educational Alliance.
Miss Lillian D. Wald, Head Worker, Nurses Settlement.
Mrs. Simkhovitch, Greenwich House Settlement.
Mrs. Herbert Parsons, College Settlement Association.
Miss Elizabeth Williams, College Settlement.
Mr. Kelly, East Side House Settlement.
Mr. James H. Hamilton, Head Worker, University Settlement.
Mr. John H. Chase, The Maxwell House, Brooklyn.
Mrs. Edwards, The Asacog Club, Brooklyn.
Miss Harriette A. Keyser, Church Association for the Advancement of the Interests of Labor.
Rev. Francis J. Clay Moran, Church Association for the Advancement of the Interests of Labor.
Mrs. F. O. Jones, St. Bartholomew's Girls' Club Boarding House.
Hon. John F. Maher.
Mrs. C. Sturenburg.
Mrs. C. C. Dike, Chairman The Heights Branch of the Woman's Municipal League.
Mrs. T. W. Wardell, Chairman First Assembly District, The Heights Branch of the Woman's Municipal League.
Mrs. Edward Hooker Smith, Chairman Second Assembly District, The Woman's Municipal League.
Mrs. Stephen Loines, Chairman Public Safety Committee, The Woman's Municipal League.
Mrs. Willam Douherty.
Miss American, The Woman's Municipal League.
Mr. Gino Speranza, Corr. Secretary Society Protection Italian Immigrants.
Mrs. Charles F. MacLean, The Woman's Municipal League.
Mrs. George L. Kent, The Woman's Municipal League.
Mrs. Truman J. Backus, President Vassar Aid Society.
Miss Kate Bond, The Woman's Municipal League.

Miss Dreier takes this opportunity to once more express her grateful recognition of the valuable aid given her by the members of the Special Committee on Employment Agencies.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The incorporation of The Woman's Municipal League necessitates certain changes in their constitution and by-laws, which require the vote of the League before they can be adopted. This action will be taken at the regular monthly meeting to be held at the City Club on June 9th.

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. II. JULY, 1904 No. 12

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, July 14th, at 11 a.m., at the Asacog Club, 55 Sands Street, Brooklyn.

MISS CHANLER

will speak on "The Housekeeper and her City."

MARY L. BUSH,
Secretary.

The Woman's Municipal League of the City of New York

In one of Miss McCracken's admirable papers, published in The Outlook of February 29th, 1904, speaking of college women, she says that President Seelye, recently, in his baccalaureate address to a class graduating from Smith College, "presented to their most earnest consideration the claims of public service, claims incumbent upon them as educated women, and involving responsibilities and duties most faithfully to be accepted and performed."

Coming from a conservative president of a large women's college, these words are significant, and they must have a tremendous influence upon young women who are to be our leaders in the times to come. It has long been granted that outside of the home, and after the home, woman has special adaptability for work among the philanthropies. In Settlement work, for example, she has made real inroads upon the wretchedness of the slum population. But to many men and women it is a novel and perhaps distasteful idea that she is a responsible citizen, and should lay her hand upon the civic ameliorative movements of the day. Such persons dread the woman in politics, as leading inevitably to the woman with a ballot.

The Health Protective Association of Brooklyn, N. Y., met with ridicule at first, and was nicknamed the "Ash-barrel Brigade." But it is now recognized that we owe much to the labors of that organization, that mainly through its efforts spittting has been prohibited in trolley cars, streets have been made cleaner, waste papers that used to fly in the air and litter the side-walks are now tied together before being taken away, that ash-carts are covered as they pass through the streets, that many improvements have been inaugurated, and that other societies with broader meanings have sprung from the same idea.

All Communications should be sent to **THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE,**
Room 1509, 31 Union Square, West

Most of us are content to work, nay, prefer to work, without the suffrage. But we realize that if we are successful in ways of charity, we may take part in those movements intended for the prevention of charity. Clean streets, sunny and airy tenements, parks in ever increasing numbers as the population grows, fountains for man and horse, recreation piers and free swimming baths, care of the swarming immigrants when they first arrive, seats for all the children in schools, civic clubs for boys; if these and similar wants of a great city were attended to, there would be little need for philanthropy.

In the Woman's Municipal League, ladies of strongly opposing views on the female suffrage question meet and act in perfect harmony. Their opinions are not known or questioned, any more than the religious denomination to which they belong is considered important for united work along civic lines. Since it is the desire and purpose of this League to interest every woman in Greater New York, and to enroll large membership in its local organizations, it is proposed to give in this paper a brief outline of its history and present atttainments, hoping that the work will extend beyond the boundaries of this city, and that the college graduates and influential women of other cities will follow the example and organize civic leagues.

Dr. Parkhurst is responsible for the suggestion, and the League was initiated in October, 1894, to interest the women of the city of New York in the cause of good government. Its permanent establishment did not take place until 1897, when the League worked with the Citizen's Union in its contest for a non-partisan government. Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell was the leading spirit of the League at that time, and under her direction meeetings were held in various parts of the city, mainly for the instruction of women in the different departments of the city's government, and the complex machinery connected therewith.

The League in its present form, working from a Central Committee, through local organizations, dates from only a little more than two years ago. In January, 1902, the League was established on a permanent basis, and the Constitution was revised to meet existing emergencies. The second Article reads thus:

"The purpose of this League is to promote among women an intelligent interest in municipal affairs, and to aid in securing good government for the City of New York, without regard to party or sectional lines."

This is noteworthy. The members of the League are "in politics" only to this extent. They determine before an election who of the candidates are likely to give best government to the city, and those candidates are supported by money contributions, mass meetings, issuing of posters, by work of any kind which suggests itself; wherever an opening occurs. But if, as in the election of last fall, their candidates are not elected, they adapt themselves to the prevailing order of things, and try to get into touch with the present administration, still calling upon it for good government, whoever may sit in the Mayor's chair. Active opposition which antagonizes is not their policy. They hold aloof when they cannot approve, but they wish to affiliate with all movements for the betterment of the city's conditions, no matter by which party inaugurated. The fact that the League is already a power, is commented upon by the president in her last annual report. She says, "My hopes have been surpassed when I find that our support and opposition have been requested by Commissioners of the city departments, many organizations, editors of the leading papers, the Brooklyn League, clergymen and twelve legislators. When we do not have to look for work, when we are turned to by these important channels, our position is indeed established."

The League's motto might well be, "Watch and Persist." For nothing that is done by the city officials, or that is proposed in Albany in the way of legislation escapes their atten-

tion, and such reforms as they cannot accomplish at once are only laid aside for a more favorable opportunity. They feel that in many cases they have only to turn the searchlight on the dark corners of the city, only to expose abuses, so to bring the weight of public opinion to bear upon our public officials, that even if they (the public officials) do not feel inclined (a fact never taken for granted), they will be compelled to reform abuses. Ignorance underlies and is almost always the cause of indifference.

Besides the establishment of local branches for work in different boroughs and sections of the city, the especial features of the League's work are, first, a monthly meeting on second Thursdays, at 11 A. M., held at the New York City Club, 55-57 West 44th Street, for general conference and information of its members; and second, the issuing of a monthly "Bulletin" to every member of the League. One dollar per year constitutes membership in a local organization, a tenth of which goes toward paying the expenses of the Central Committee, renting a room for headquarters, paying salary of a secretary, whose time is wholly taken up by the work of the League, printing of the Bulletin, etc., the remaining nine-tenths belonging to the branch for its own work. The dues are purposely made small, for it is intended to bring these privileges within the reach of the poorest. Here truly, there are no class distinctions, no lines between rich and poor, between learned and ignorant.

The League realizes the importance of informing its own members, and for this purpose, classes are maintained by several of the local organizations for the study of the city's charter, its history, laws concerning tenements, child labor, sweat shops, etc. Women are deplorably ignorant, and much amusement exists among men as to our mistakes, and to the fact that our actions are guided by our emotions oftener than our judgment and our knowledge. We cannot work reforms beyond the letter of the law. What then is the law? How can it be better enforced? If bad, or inadequate, how can we pass a better? The chairman of the League's Legislative Committee is one of the busiest of women. She has her private secretary in Albany, who reports to her what is being done there, what bills are likely to come up. She and her committee, representing the League can bring a very strong influence to bear for or against certain bills, as one instance will show.

Some of the abuses connected with the Licensed Employment Bureau of the City of New York had been suspected, but not until the League investigated the existing conditions of licensed agencies, some four hundred in number, were the appalling evils realized. Many of these so-called intelligence offices are run in connection with liquor saloons, or cheap and filthy boarding houses; they are kept in crowded tenements which spread disease; some of them are engaged in illicit traffic; dishonesty and fraud are prevalent; and the law as it has existed on the statute books has been powerless to relieve these abuses. Urgent action was necessary, since it was learned that some of these agencies intended to send young girls to disreputable houses in St. Louis the coming summer. A bill to meet the necessities of the case was at once drawn up, other societies were asked to co-operate, and this they gladly did. The bill passed both houses of the Legislature, received the Governor's signature, and the new law became effective the first of May.

The bill applies to every employment agency in cities of the first and second class with the exception of agencies for the employment of school teachers, embracing every agency where a fee is charged for the receiving of a position. As a result of the new law Mayor McClellan appointed a Commissioner of Licenses empowered to appoint inspectors who must inspect every office at least bi-monthly and must see that all the provisions of the law are complied with.

The League's work among boys is assuming great importance. One "Juvenile City League" on the west side of Manhattan consists of about twenty clubs, representing as many blocks, with a center, 555 West 53d Street, and a director. Nearly fifteen hundred boys have been already enrolled, and their efforts to keep the streets clean, and to prevent their mothers from throwing rubbish into the street are very effective. One lady told me that it would be almost impossible for her to throw a paper into the gutter without being accosted and called to account by a youngster who would give her a card for her information and admonition. Some of the cards which these boys distribute read as follows: "Keep your streets clean." "Take care of your garbage." "Have gentlemanly manners." "Put only ashes in the ash-can." "Tie up your rubbish in a bundle." "Do not build fires on election night." These boys are taken on excursions to different parts of the city, the Board of Health heartily co-operating with the League for that purpose. A loan of athletic goods passes from one club to another; books and magazines are provided in a reading room. They are impressed with the idea that as the future voters and law-makers they must be prepared for responsibility, while they are yet young. They must be good citizens, as boys. The age of these boys is between nine and fifteen.

The Morrisania Branch of the League is very wide awake, inspecting streets, striving to improve rapid transit facilities, urging upon the proper authorities new sites for school buildings, meeting discouragement and the indifference of the authorities with politeness and persistence. Take one instance. The women of the Tremont division called the attention of the Street Department to the filthy condition of a certain avenue. For a year little or no attention was paid to these complaints, but after repeated visits and written complaints, the Inspector gave the inhabitants one week in which to provide themselves with proper receptacles for garbage and refuse, or suffer arrest. At the end of the week the district was a model of cleanliness, and has remained so ever since. In another district, refuse was dumped into a creek, to the manifest danger of the health of the locality. This has been stopped by the members of the League.

The movement for the establishment of summer ice-water fountains in different parts of the city, where the poorer classes live, has been attended with marked success, and the saloons have materially suffered in consequence.

The women of Greater New York who are in sympathy with the objects of the Woman's Municipal League, (and who is not?) should help with their sympathy and co-operation. It is easy to leave the reform of abuses to others, and like the priest and Levite, to walk by on the other side. But in so doing, privileges are given up, and the blessing passes by us also. We cannot afford to let our portion of the world's work be done by others. If large numbers of our women would join the Municipal League, and take the alert attitude of its members, such a pressure could be brought to bear upon our government officials for justice and purity, for fairness and integrity, that it would be well nigh irresistible.

There are hotels in Port Said, Jerusalem, and other places in the Orient, man-kept, in which men perform every service, and fill every office. No woman can be had even for chamber work, and in times of sickness. The meals are served, rooms are swept and cleaned after a fashion, beds are most wonderfully made, but in the corners there is dirt. Moreover the lines are hard, there are lacking the grace and comfort which always follow the woman's touch.

In the municipal housekeeping as well, there is room for the woman's touch, and it naturally supplements the sterner work of the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen and other officials.

CAROLINE A. CREEVEY